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London peace talks start today as Ethiopian army collapses and navy flees to Yemen

Rebels poised to take control of Addis Ababa

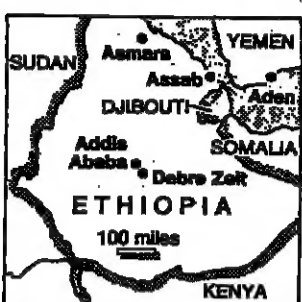
By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

AN END to Ethiopia's 30-year civil war was in sight last night as rebels encircled the capital in advance of peace talks in London today.

Rebels yesterday seized the main military air base, putting the air force out of action, and the entire navy fled across the Red Sea to Yemen. The prime minister, Tesfaye Dinka, was thus left with no bargaining counters to take to the American-sponsored talks. "Basically he must sign an unconditional surrender," one diplomat said.

Leaders of the three rebel groups at the talks will demand the speedy establishment of a transitional government. Eritrea will also insist on a referendum on independence. "We're in a very commanding position," Asfaw Mamo of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front said. "The Ethiopian army has collapsed. If they don't accept our terms, we are willing to turn the screw."

Another front commander,



Gebre Tadekan, pledged that Addis Ababa would not be attacked unless the talks failed. "Militarily, we could enter Addis Ababa at any time. The tough part of the battle is over, we're at the gates of the capital. But we will wait and see what comes out of the London conference."

The talks, whose venue remains a secret, are to be overseen by Herman Cohen, America's assistant secretary of state for African affairs. He will today hold bilateral meetings with the three rebel groups — the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front and the smaller Oromo Liberation Front — and with Mr Dinka. Round-table negotiations will begin tomorrow.

Aid workers hope a quick settlement will make it easier to get relief supplies to millions facing starvation in the north and south of the country.

The speed of the government's collapse after the flight to Zimbabwe of President Mengistu on Tuesday has taken both rebel forces and Western diplomats by surprise. The Debre Zeit air base, 28 miles from the capital, was taken after government troops left in a hurry, and further evidence of a collapsing administration came with the announcement that 12 ships with 3,000 people on board had escaped to the Yemeni port of Mocha, after the fall of the naval base at Asab. "We believe it is the entire navy," a Yemeni official said.

Another 3,000 soldiers and civilians, also fleeing Asab, were said to have crossed the

border into Djibouti. Three air force officers hijacked a military aircraft with 53 people on board to Djibouti and asked for asylum, officials said. All the passengers, apart from a woman, were members of the air force.

The Oromo Liberation Front claimed in a radio broadcast that its forces had killed more than 700 government soldiers in a battle for the town of Dembi Dolla, 280 miles southwest of Addis Ababa. The three rebel groups said in a separate broadcast that the capture of the town was a joint operation, the first such venture.

Ethiopian Airlines announced, meanwhile, that it would pull out of Addis Ababa today. As foreigners fled the capital, air operations were being moved to Nairobi. International flights were still operating from the city yesterday, but the aircraft would return to the Kenyan capital. Some diplomats said they expected Addis Ababa airport to be closed from today.

Western governments continued to fly their nationals out of the country yesterday. A German government-chartered plane flew out of Addis Ababa yesterday with 200 Westerners on board, although most Germans in Ethiopia chose to remain.

France and Britain began bringing their citizens out on Saturday. The Israeli government was meanwhile criticised for moving 15,000 Falashas out of Ethiopia in Operation Solomon. The ruling party newspaper in Damascus, *Al-Baath*, said that 35-hour operation which ended on Saturday was part of a large international plot against all the Arabs. In London, Mammo Muchie, president of the Ethiopian community in Britain, said the Jews had been "de-rooted" and claimed the operation was humiliating for Ethiopia.

Peace settlements, page 10
Promised land, page 14

Rifkind tries to put goods back on rails

By MICHAEL DYNES, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS to relieve congestion on motorways and trunk roads by encouraging industry to support freight distribution by rail will be unveiled tomorrow by Malcolm Rifkind, the transport secretary.

In his first key policy speech since taking up his new post, Mr Rifkind is expected to outline a package of initiatives aimed at increasing the efficiency of road and rail networks by encouraging greater co-ordination between them.

High on the agenda is thought to be a scheme to increase co-operation between road and rail distribution systems by boosting incentives to companies wishing to provide and use combined road-rail operations, where the long haul is carried out by rail and the short haul by road.

Because rail freight is generally uneconomic for journeys under 200 miles, more than 90 per cent of domestic freight is forced to travel by road. However, the emergence of combined road-rail operations without the need for expensive handling facilities such as cranes and forklift trucks, which has been achieved successfully in Europe and America, promises to transform the economics of freight distribution.

Mr Rifkind is expected to highlight the example set by Charterail, a specialist joint venture distribution company in which British Rail has a 25 per cent stake, which is planning to develop combined road-rail transport and extend the new freight distribution system throughout Britain by the end of the decade.



Escape from the war: an Ethiopian Jewish woman, with her baby on her back, travels on an Israeli bus after the rescue of Falashas. Report, page 10

People's army waits for victory

The air in Ethiopia is heavy with the scent of victory. Sam Kiley reports from behind rebel lines

The crucial air base of Debre Zeit fell to the Tigré People's Liberation Front at 6am yesterday as government troops abandoned their positions without a fight. The 15-mile road between Debre Zeit and the capital is entirely undefended, while government troops are still pouring into the city from fronts on the road north to Asmara and west to Ambo, where fighting continues just nine miles from the presidential Menelik Palace.

The rebels in Debre Zeit captured at least five tanks, five military transport planes, an Ethiopian Airlines jet and ten Soviet-built helicopter gunships, four of which are operational.

Although leaders of the Ethiopian People's Liberation Front, the umbrella group representing rebels at tomorrow's talks, have repeatedly said they would not invade the capital before today, some of their troops are less willing to hold back.

The road is clear and we are going straight to Addis," said a commander whose T52 tank, stationed at the northern edge of Debre Zeit, was set for the final push.

Many of the Tigréan fighters in the captured town are aged under 16 and a good number of them are women, including a political commissar who after three hours in the city demanded we leave.

In marked contrast to the government's forces, the Tigréans are well-equipped with FN rifles and AK-47s as well as heavy armour and many anti-aircraft cannons. They are well-fed and jubilant, but iron-disciplined.

They have raided government stores for new uniforms — many of them sport Continued on page 20, col 6

14 killed in two bank holiday road crashes

By ROBIN YOUNG

FOURTEEN people died in two of the bank holiday weekend's worst road accidents. Eight were killed, and two seriously injured in a head-on crash between a Ford Escort van and a BMW saloon car on the A5021 between Menai Bridge and Penrth.

Superintendent Clive McGregor, head of the Anglesey police, said: "This has to be one of the worst accidents in north Wales. It was an horrific scene. How there were seven passengers in that van is something the coroner will have to enquire into. There were only two front seats. Six people were crammed into the back."

Firemen had to cut the victims free, and a fleet of ambulances took the dead and injured to hospital.

Those who died were the



Tracey Mattison: victim of crash in which six died

van driver, Peter Jones, who would have been 28 next Sunday, of Florid Tysilio, Menai Bridge; Jonathan Gwynne Jones, 18, of Nant Y Felin, Penrth; Paul Lewis Jones, 28, of Pendre Hywel, Penrth; Keith Roberts, 21, of Betws Gernant, Penrth; Dewi Wyn Roberts, 29, of Bryn Ogwen Penrth; Bangor; Martin Hicks, 18, of Bay View Road, Benllech; Michael Smees, 22, of Mostyn, Menai Bridge, and the driver of the BMW, Alan Edmond Rosch, aged 29, of Marylebone, Wigan.

In the Hoddesdon crash, four women and two men were killed. Five travelling together in a new Ford Granada were named as Keith Tideman, aged 22, of Lampits, Hoddesdon, and Teresa Alligan, aged 21, of Dorchester Avenue, Hoddesdon, who were to have been married next year; Tracey Mattison, 19, of Harlow, Essex; Margaret Chan, 19, of Harlow; and Wendy Tsang, 18, of Harlow. The other man killed was the driver of a Volvo, Frederick Lewis, 50, of Amwell, near Ware, Hertfordshire.

The father of Tracey Mattison said that she and her friends were on a trip arranged by their firm. Tracey and her workmates Margaret Chan and Wendy Tsang had been to a nightclub in Watford.

In Thornetree, Cleveland, Melissa Jaffray was knocked over and killed as she celebrated her ninth birthday. She ran into the road near her home and was hit by a car. Paul Rayner, 40, of Brearley, Bradford, was killed after the glider he was piloting crashed at Sutton Bank Gliding Club near Thirsk, North Yorkshire.

The front engine of an eight-coach InterCity express to London Paddington was derailed near Luxulyan, Cornwall. No one was injured, but a British Rail spokesman said the line between Penzance and Newquay was likely to be closed until tomorrow.

At Chipping Sodbury, Avon, more than 60 people were arrested during police swoops on an encampment of hippies gathering for an illegal festival on the Duke of Beaufort's land at Sodbury Common. At least 2,000 travellers with more than 1,000 battered buses, vans and cars moved onto Sodbury Common after farmers dug trenches and filled them with pig slurry to prevent campers pitching at their usual place on Inglesstone Common, near Bristol.

Police said most of the Continued on page 20, col 4

Lenders get Bank support

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

THE Bank of England has welcomed the decision by banks to increase their lending margins to companies, despite growing resentment among small businesses that they have not received the full benefits of the government's recent cuts in interest rates.

The Bank's support for the high street lenders is likely to lead to further criticism after the 17 per cent pay rise accepted by Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the Governor.

The Labour party has called for a government enquiry into the banks' lending practices after reports that some small firms are being charged up to 18 per cent interest.

A Bank spokesman said it was "not at all unhappy" that the trend towards lower interest margins had recently been reversed. "It is important that banks price their risks properly," he said.

Leading article, page 15
CBI to meet bankers, page 32

NOAH'S ARK FROM EHRMAN TAPESTRY



Catherine Reurs, the Canadian textile designer, has treated the story of Noah's Ark in the naive tradition. Her animals, lined up in single file, have an appeal and simplicity reminiscent of 18th Century American Folk art which inspires so much of her work. Her colours are cool and muted, dusty rose pinks and mauve, pale and steel blue, elephant grey, white and deeper thundery blue. It is a very popular design with children and makes a most original tapestry.

It makes a large, comfortable cushion measuring 18 1/2 in x 18 1/2 in and the design is printed in the full 14 colours on 12 holes to the inch canvas. It can be worked in either half-cross or tent stitch and enough wool from the Appletan's range is included to complete the tapestry in either. The kit comes complete with canvas, wool, needle and instruction leaflet. All for £29.95 including postage and packing, which for a cushion of this size is very good value. When ordering use FREEPOST — no stamp needed.

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Historic questions about America's first gland

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THREE weeks after the celebrated heart flutter that caused global palpitations, President Bush has still not fully recovered. He is having to take an extended break in Kennebunkport, Maine, to try and recharge those legendary batteries. Americans are beginning to ask, according to a new *Times-Mirror* poll, whether the Gulf war happened because of a surfeit of presidential hormones.

Mr Bush, who has cut back his work schedule, is still off vigorous exercise and has lost 13lb in weight. He is on five different medications as his doctors seek to remedy the overactive thyroid condition known as Graves' Disease which gave rise to the aerial fibrillation. He looked and sounded awful during a joint press conference with Chancellor Kohl of Germany a week ago and has suffered

bouts of exhaustion. One day he complains of feeling "dead tired" and of a "slowing down of the mental processes" but the next he insists he is as "sharp as a tack".

The presidential physicians insist Mr Bush is well on the way to complete recovery. A few ups and downs are par for the course, they say, and it should be no surprise if normalising the function of the "first gland" leads to "a slower and less frenetic George Bush". But that statement has raised more questions.

"Were we seeing a 'speedier', more 'superjuiced' George Bush during the recent foreign policy crisis (Kuwait) of the past 10 years?" asked commentator Alex Heard in the latest edition of *New Republic*. "Was the hand that signed the orders vibrating as fast as bumblebee wings? Did the eyes that never blinked also never shut?"

The *New York Times* columnist,

William Safire, posed a similar question. "To what extent was the president's uncharacteristically activist mindset after the Iraqi invasion affected by a hyperthyroid condition? Was he 'hyper' last August 27? Did the overactive gland affect his decision to launch the air war or the ground war earlier this year? I believe he made his greatest historic decisions at those moments, and wonder only what happened to the historic gland on March 26, when he decided prematurely to abandon the Kurds."

A *Washington Post* article looked to the future yesterday. It said: "It can take months, sometimes years, for people to get their thyroid function back to normal." What are the implications of that, the *Post* asked, for superpower relations, the imminent decision on whether to renew China's preferential trading status — or the future of Vice-President Quayle?



Recharging: Bush out fishing yesterday

New engineers

The Engineering Council's list of newly qualified chartered engineers, incorporated engineers and engineering technicians will be published tomorrow.

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Recession-hit lawyers unhappy with their image

THE typical partner in a solicitors' office works a 52-hour week, drives a Peugeot, BMW or Renault, and enjoys golf, gardening or tennis.

He finds his work stressful and sees accountants as the biggest threat to his profession in the next decade, followed by banks and building societies. The recession has hit his firm more than it would admit, and his personal income has been affected.

This profile emerges from a survey based on replies from more than 100 law firms across England and Wales conducted by ICL (UK), the computer manu-

facturers. It reveals a profession overwhelmingly dissatisfied with its image, with solicitors convinced that they should market their services more aggressively. It also shows that solicitors feel they could use more expertise in "management of people", as well as in computer technology; most are ill at ease with the computer systems in their offices.

The survey was based on replies to a questionnaire sent to 230 firms; some 60 per cent of responses came from London, 27 per cent from regional cities and 13 per cent from the country. Nearly 90 per cent said that

the recession had hit law firms more than some admitted publicly in terms of redundancies and reduced income; and 56 per cent said their personal income had been affected. Areas of work worst hit were mergers and acquisitions, conveyancing, corporate finance and property. Insolvency work and litigation had boomed.

Looking to the future, partners picked on EC law, intellectual property and environmental issues as the big areas for the coming decade.

On the government's legal reforms, nearly 70 per cent plan to make some use of the wider advocacy rights ex-

Lawyers complain that their public image is unfair but they are not prepared to give free legal advice to improve it. Frances Gibb reports

pected to be granted to solicitors, and 6 per cent described the potential use as substantial. Only 25 per cent said they would not use the rights at all.

Partners gave an overwhelming "no" when asked whether all lawyers should be required to do some free legal advice work, or contribute in some other way to publicly-funded services. Most felt that law firms needed more aggres-

sive marketing, and more than 91 per cent said lawyers suffered from an image problem. Views were split on the role of the Law Society, the solicitors' professional body, in representing their interests: 16 per cent rated its performance very poor, 38 per cent poor, 38 per cent average and 8 per cent very good.

When it came to recruitment, it was a buyer's market. Most (57 per cent) still

favoured applicants with law degrees, though 32 per cent did not mind and 14 per cent actively favoured those with non-law degrees. Oxford and Cambridge, followed by London and Manchester, were mentioned most often among 22 universities and polytechnics producing best quality recruits.

There was a two-thirds majority against lifting the ban on mixed (between solicitors and other professionals) practices to provide "one-stop shopping".

The survey highlighted interesting trends in attitude to women solicitors. A separate questionnaire sent to firms rather than just to partners

showed that 72 per cent would look favourably at partners wanting to return to work part-time after children. It is, however, an attitude yet to be translated into reality. Seventy-eight per cent of firms reported no part-time partners at all, male or female, and the average of female partners was 12 per cent.

Findlay Simpson, manager of ICL's investment and legal branch, said the most striking finding for his company was that more than 80 per cent of partners did not feel they knew enough about computer technology or that they were making best use of it.

Waldegrave admits failure to woo public on the NHS

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

WILLIAM Waldegrave yesterday launched the government's fightback on the National Health Service by admitting that its reforms would create initial unfairness and could lead to redundancies.

The health secretary, who has decided that a change in tactics is needed to limit the political damage caused by the reforms, promised to fight until the next general election to get across the government's ambitions for the NHS.

Accusing Labour of frightening old women with its campaign against hospitals opting for self-governing status, Mr Waldegrave admitted that the government had failed to persuade the public over its reforms.

He said: "I am going to fight from here to the next election to get the true message across. I don't believe that when you are reforming a great public service like the NHS there is any hope of doing that under the carpet, behind the scenes. I don't believe we have got our message across yet. I do not believe we have an option of simply trying to hide what we are doing, nor should we want to, so I have to come out, as so many newspapers are saying, fighting to get those messages across."

In a tactic clearly designed to try to persuade the public that the party and government are fully committed to the NHS, he used words such as great and magnificent to describe the service. The government's measures were aimed at rebuilding an NHS which would provide "comprehensive, free health care."

He agreed, however, that there would be unfairness as the reforms were introduced but that by introducing competition there would eventually be better care for all patients. It was imaginary to believe there was not unfairness in the existing system, but government was exposing much of this and producing a mechanism for levelling up rather than continuing in the present manner, he said.

Mr Waldegrave, whose interview on LWT's *Walden* programme was watched by senior cabinet colleagues, predicted that there would be better paid but fewer staff working for a reformed NHS. During a 50-minute interview, judged "competent" by Conservative sources, he emphasised that he wanted to improve patient care delivered by competition rather than by an old-boy network.

Although Mr Waldegrave avoided a direct attack on the efficiency of any one group in the NHS, he made clear that NHS staff must do better without real pressure from the patients there would be no improvement. Asked whether under the old system some hospital doctors, nurses and administrators had not been pulling their weight, he said: "It can be better."

He accepted that the reforms could bring redundancies, but said it was not his job to run an enormous em-

ployment agency. "What we need is to get what the patients need. If we can do that with fewer people, better trained people, then we should."

His reforms could lead to the employment of an extra 4,000 administrators, but it would be worth it if they ensured that money went where patients needed care.

Robin Cook, the shadow health secretary, said the government had admitted there would be unfairness and losses. "Mr Waldegrave admits that 4,000 more bureaucrats will be needed to run the new paper chases, but he cannot put a figure to any savings. If this is the Conservatives' counter-attack on the NHS, it has gone off with the force of a damp squib."

He urged the government to postpone plans for the next wave of hospital trusts until after the election; government NHS plans were "dripping with privatisation".

Mr Cook said: "What the Government can now do would be to put on hold their plans to make an even larger number of hospitals go it alone. We have seen the problems that have happened with the ones that have gone out in the first wave."



Horse hope: Janet Clay, a voluntary helper at Hopefield Animal Sanctuary, at Brentwood, Essex, which is seeking £100,000 to stay open by buying its rented site

Tory praises 'outstanding' Kinnock revival

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AS THE government prepared for a summer offensive against the Opposition, a former Tory cabinet minister yesterday praised Neil Kinnock's achievement in making Labour look capable of winning a general election.

John Biffen, a senior Conservative backbench MP and former leader of the House, said that Mr Kinnock had proved an "outstanding" Labour leader who had brought the party back from the margins of British politics.

With words likely to delight the Opposition leader and his closest aides, Mr Biffen compared Mr Kinnock favourably with previous opposition leaders including Hugh Gaitskill, the former Labour leader whose strongest supporters left the party to form the SDP. Mr Biffen said: "I have absolutely no hesitation in saying that, when I think of Labour leaders, Neil Kinnock is outstanding."

Interviewed on Channel 4's *The Pursuit of Power*, Mr Biffen highlighted Mr Kinnock's efforts since he became leader to bring the party back to the centre of British politics and make it attractive to voters.

"He has done more to bring the Labour party back to the centre ground of British politics than Hugh Gaitskill ever was able to succeed in doing, notwithstanding the intellectual brilliance of Gaitskill and not withstanding his many

other qualities," Mr Biffen added. "When it came to sheer political sensitivity, knowing where to apply the pressure, Neil Kinnock has been quite outstanding in putting the Labour party into a better position politically than it has been in for decades. After so many years in the margins Labour now looks distinctly electable."

The remarks by Mr Biffen will jolt Conservative Central Office as it prepares an all-out campaign to restore Tory fortunes and reverse Labour's eight-point lead in the opinion polls. They were a warning to party strategists of the threat posed by Labour and Mr Kinnock, a man who is a much more disciplined politician than he was in 1987.

Conservative party strategists appear to have decided that they cannot attempt to campaign on the basis of portraying Labour as a party that has not really changed. Instead they are suggesting that under Mr Kinnock, Britain would return to the policies pursued by Harold Wilson and that the opposition's policy review has produced a vision similar to that offered by Mr Wilson in the early Sixties.

Although senior figures in the Labour party do not like to be reminded of the Wilson years, some have questioned the Tory tactics by asking how many younger voters remember Mr Wilson.

Heads warn Major over pay board

By JOHN O'LEARY, HIGHER EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

HEAD teachers have warned the prime minister that they will withdraw their support for a pay review body unless it is staffed independently of government.

The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) has written to Mr Major, who has personal responsibility for all pay review bodies, after failing to win assurances from education ministers. It is demanding that the proposed body for teachers has its staff provided by the Office for Manpower Economics (OME), as do present review bodies.

"It is a matter of great concern that, to date, ministers have not given such an assurance but have indicated that they are undecided between the OME and a secretariat provided by the education department," the letter says.

"The latter would be quite unacceptable to the NAHT because it could not by any stretch of the imagination be regarded as independent."

David Hart, NAHT general secretary, said: "The independent secretariat is no mere technicality, it is crucial to the operation of an independent pay review body, and its absence from the one proposed for teachers would significantly devalue the review body's independence. The government must stop 'shilly-shallying' on this issue."

□ Lecturers in polytechnics and colleges are planning a campaign of industrial action

against changes in post-16 education after hearing that up to 16,000 jobs are in danger. The National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education, meeting in Brighton, has received a development plan suggesting the disappearance of at least 10,000 lecturing posts in the next five years despite the government's pledge to make more room for students. Redundancies are already taking place as colleges and polytechnics pursue efficiency savings.

In an emergency motion the union called for an overtime ban and full opposition to redundancies. Delegates had already agreed on action to oppose last week's White Paper commitment to remove further education from local authorities and to divide control of adult education.

Although welcoming the abolition of the distinction between polytechnics and universities, delegates feared that the changes would lead to increasing job losses.

This pessimistic outlook is not shared by the union's leadership. Geoff Woolf, general secretary, told the conference: "I have been involved in further education for nearly 20 years, and I have never felt so optimistic about the future of the service."

□ Lecturers were urged to boycott Birmingham polytechnic yesterday because it has failed to implement nationally agreed pay rates.

Cash flow falters for card users

By ROBIN YOUNG

PEOPLE who rely on automatic cash machines for their supply of ready cash stand a one in ten chance of potentially cashing out problems today, the Consumers' Association said last night.

Jane Vass, head of the association's money group, said that in a survey of more than 2,000 people, one in 20 claimed to have been given the wrong money from a dispenser at least once. Almost as many had on some occasion received no cash at all, though their accounts were debited.

"People should take extra care today, because cash machines are more likely to run out of money on a bank holiday Monday," she advised.

The association advised anyone who had problems using a dispenser to note the details immediately, to keep any receipts, to get the name and address of a witness if possible, and to raise the matter with the bank or building society as soon as possible.

Of 25 cash dispensers visited in central London yesterday afternoon, seven were already out of service or out of cash. Two others carried warnings that they were no longer able to dispense £5 or £20 notes. One man seeking £200 from a Barclays bank said the machine which eventually solved his cash crisis was the sixth he had tried.

M25 repairs highlight pressures on network

By MICHAEL DYNE, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

REPAIRS to a three-mile section of the M25 between Westham, in Kent, and Godstone in Surrey have been announced by the transport department 12 years after the motorway was opened.

The carriageway's ridged surface, which has been badly worn and covered with layers of rubber from tyres, is to be relaid.

The announcement follows a report last week by the National Audit Office, highlighting the transport department's failure to anticipate the scale of repairs needed to keep

open the national road network. The condition of the roads is now known to be much worse than thought, forcing transport officials to expand the maintenance programme to include the renewal of 400 miles of motorway and single-carriageway trunk roads annually from 1992-3.

Consultants appointed by the transport department in 1989 to analyse the condition of the network found that one in four trunk roads would need new asphalt overlay within five years, or complete

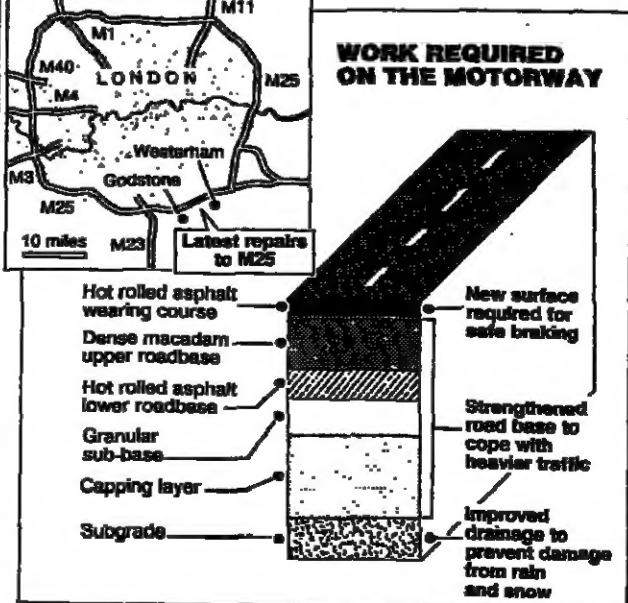
reconstruction "in due course".

Since 1984, the department, which is responsible for 1,600 miles of motorway and 5,100 miles of trunk road, has underestimated the number of miles of road requiring renewal; roads have not lasted as long as expected due to higher-than-forecast traffic flows and loadings, the report said.

Estimates of the annual mileage of roads requiring renewal should be updated regularly, and the department should ensure that roads are relaid before they deteriorate to a point at which expensive reconstruction is needed, it added.

The maintenance backlog originated in the 1970s, when insufficient allocation of funds prevented work being done at the right time. The report said that the department was on target to eliminate the backlog by 1992-3, but that extra money would be needed to cope with the increased maintenance burden of this decade.

Jeffrey Stansfield, county surveyor for Suffolk, said that the report highlighted a defect that had to be rectified across the country. "The damage to the road pavement is directly related to axle weights, which have increased substantially over the past 15 years, combined with the tremendous increase in road traffic," he said.



Penny plane and tuppence coloured at the spiritual festival

By JOE JOSEPH

WHY were they selling dowers yesterday at the Festival of Mind, Body and Spirit? Why do people buy them? Just in case of what, exactly?

The annual festival is the sort of place that attracts people who move on a higher spiritual plane, who are aiming for more important things in life than getting a good agent and a personal tax accountant before they are 16. But does it all work? If it does, why do they look so anxious and unwell. Many of them don't look as if they dropped out of society. They look as though they were pushed.

The stallholders seem to move on the same plane as the ones in Petticoat Lane.

At yesterday's festival at the Royal Horticultural Hall in London, there were more Visa cards than Tarot cards being read by the specialist exhibitors.

At *Aura Photos* you can get your electro-magnetic energy photographed. It looks like a Polaroid that has not developed fully, leaving blotches of red and blue pigment. As each snap comes out of the machine, the American cameraman-cum-showman holds it up to the crowd and says, "Wow, look at this lady's aura," or "Hey, real nice energy there." The lady is passed to a woman who carries out the "psychic interpretation". She tells the lady, "Sometimes you think to yourself, like, 'isn't there more?' But life is not about

thinking things like, 'hey, where's my Hollywood career?' Life is about being happy with simple things. And you have the ability to do that. You have that natural, empathetic kind of energy with other people." Jeze, what a relief. And that'll be £10, please.

In hells between customers, the psychic interpreter passes her hands all over her body, about six inches from the surface, as if she were stroking an imaginary, very fluffy, fur coat. Either she has a very complicated twitch or electro-magnetic auras, like beards, become bushier and more healthy the more you scrape them clean back to the roots.

Customers were also given a list of

colour interpretations. Red is the colour for vitality and physical health. Yellow represents a highly developed intellect. Violet is very psychic. And so on. All the colours are flattering. So what colour signals a dull, outish, stingy little person, with bad body smells and no dress sense?

"Do you feel any energy?" Wendy at the Winifred stand of Energy Innovation Products asked after handing me a plate of purple aluminium the size of a playing card. "No," I said. "What is it supposed to do?" Wendy said it cured ailments such as backache and arthritis, made you feel generally zippy, and it "takes away the negative vibrations from food and water. It makes water taste super and changes the

molecular structure of food if you place it on the purple plate."

Wendy showed me an aura picture of her holding the little purple rectangle and not holding the little purple rectangle. "You can see what it does for your energy field." What is the difference? "The large plate is seven times more powerful." Presumably you keep it on standby for large-scale surgery or a serious banquet.

I gave up on Hare Krishna meditation after getting half way around my string of 108 holy beads. You finger one bead per mantra. My tutor broke off to ask a passing colleague if he could hitch a ride home with him later. A different kind of upliftment. The beads were on offer for £4.99.

'Passport for sale' evidence sought

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

HOME Office investigators and Scotland Yard detectives are to examine evidence that British passports are being sold on the black market by a gang with access to blank passports and Home Office computer systems.

The allegations, made in the *Sunday Express*, named a businessman in Leicester as the self-confessed organiser of the racket. The claims emerged as the Home Office was trying to pin down evidence that passports were being offered for sale.

The newspaper inserted itself into a network of businessmen offering passports for sale and bought for £5,000 a new EC-style British passport bearing the photograph of its reporter and the details of another unwitting Briton. The newspaper was also given a blank old-style British dark blue hard-back passport, ready for the details to be inserted. These are being sold, completed, for £8,600.

Last night, the Home Office said that an investigation had been under way for some time.

The sales are to be raised in the Commons by Mr. Madden, Labour MP for Bradford West. Yesterday he demanded an early statement from Kenneth Baker, the home secretary. "Genuine applicants for British citizenship and British passports are now facing a delay," Mr. Madden said.

"The administrative chaos which the passport office is in is providing golden opportunities for crooks and racketeers to make quick profits at the expense of entirely genuine applicants. The home secretary must ensure that the crooks and racketeers who are cashing in on this chaos are called to account."

Earlier this year, the passport office became a semi-autonomous Whitehall agency and claims that the time taken for processing passports would be reduced rapidly to less than five days. Agency status could eventually be followed by privatisation.

Talks on Gulf war aftermath

The first major conference to examine issues arising from the Gulf war is to open in London on Thursday (Ray Clancy writes).

Academics, anti-war organisations and members of the public will take part in "Winning the Peace?" at London university.

A one-day conference on Women in the Middle East will be held on Friday alongside the main conference which rounds off with a plenary session involving the public on June 1 at Central Hall, Westminster.

A report on all the issues discussed - including the international arms trade, the future of chemical and biological weapons and the role of the United Nations, will be published later.

Some of the organisers believe that the government should have set up a conference to examine post-Gulf war issues.

Science step

A technique hailed as the "second revolution" in genetic fingerprinting will be used for the first time in criminal trials next month. Polymerase chain reaction is a rapid, sensitive and cheap method of detecting pieces of DNA - the genetic material of life. It allows scientists to unlock DNA from smaller samples of body fluid than under conventional profiling. It can also be used on bodies.

30,000 at rally

Jeffrey Graham, the American evangelist, attracted nearly 30,000 people to his first rally to be held in Scotland since 1955. At the close of the 90-minute event, nearly 3,000 people stepped forward onto the pitch at Murrayfield rugby ground in a gesture of religious commitment. The rally on Saturday was the first of 10 to be held in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Glasgow in Mr Graham's Scottish tour.

Ashcroft illness

Dame Peggy Ashcroft was still unconscious in hospital yesterday, three days after suffering a stroke at her home. The actress, aged 83, who lives in Hampstead, north London, was "comfortable" but her condition was unchanged, a spokesman at the Royal Free hospital said.

Reading The Times
Australia 6p 30c; Belgium 8 p 50c; Canada 6p 30c; Denmark 12p 100c; France 11p 50c; Germany 12p 50c; Greece 12p 50c; Hong Kong 12p 50c; India 12p 50c; Ireland 12p 50c; Italy 12p 50c; Japan 12p 50c; Korea 12p 50c; Luxembourg 12p 50c; Malaysia 12p 50c; Mexico 12p 50c; Netherlands 12p 50c; New Zealand 12p 50c; Norway 12p 50c; Pakistan 12p 50c; Portugal 12p 50c; Singapore 12p 50c; South Africa 12p 50c; Sweden 12p 50c; Switzerland 12p 50c; Taiwan 12p 50c; Thailand 12p 50c; USA 65c; USSR 12p 50c.

First Briton in space returns to Earth in faultless landing

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

HELEN Sharman, the first Briton in space, floated safely down to the deserts of Soviet Central Asia yesterday after a mission of eight days in which she travelled three million miles.

The Soyuz TM11 capsule touched down at 11.04.48am London time near the area of Dzhezkazgan, 74km northeast of Balkhash, cosmodrome, where the historic Juno mission was launched on the afternoon of Saturday, May 18.

Miss Sharman, commander Musa Manarov, engineer Viktor Afanasyev and their capsule were retrieved by Soviet military helicopters before being flown from Leningrad airport, Kazakhstan, to Star City training centre, Moscow, for quarantine, medical checks and a traditional "bread and salt" welcome. She is expected to spend ten days in isolation before returning to Britain in the second week of June.

Christopher Hayes, a spokesman for the Moscow Narodny Bank, the mission's organisers, said yesterday that the touchdown had been flawless and that Miss Sharman, aged 27, appeared in excellent health.

Miss Sharman's family, who had an open telephone link from their home in Sheffield to the flight control centre in Kaliningrad, near Moscow, during the final nail-biting minutes, said they were delighted and relieved. John

Sharman, aged 51, said: "We have been feeling fairly tense this morning. I always thought the landing would be the most difficult part. It certainly was for us. We are very relieved."

The two cosmonauts who are left on Mir, the Soviet space station, also appeared relieved. Commander Anatoli Artyebarsky, the captain who piloted Miss Sharman and engineer Sergei Krikallov to the station and who raised his eyebrows last week by suggesting that a woman's place was on Mother Earth and not in space, joked to flight control engineers: "Now we can arrange Mir the way we like."

The journey back to Earth started at 4.40am London time as the return crew and Miss Sharman left Mir to take their spring-loaded seats in the Soyuz TM11 docked at one end of the station. After systems checks lasting two-and-a-half hours, the four compressed spring bolts holding the Soyuz to the station were released and the capsule fired into space at about 7.13am.

Impulse engines manoeuvred the Soyuz up over the top of Mir so that the return crew could photograph the ageing space station's exterior for signs of wear and damage. Those will be studied back on Earth.

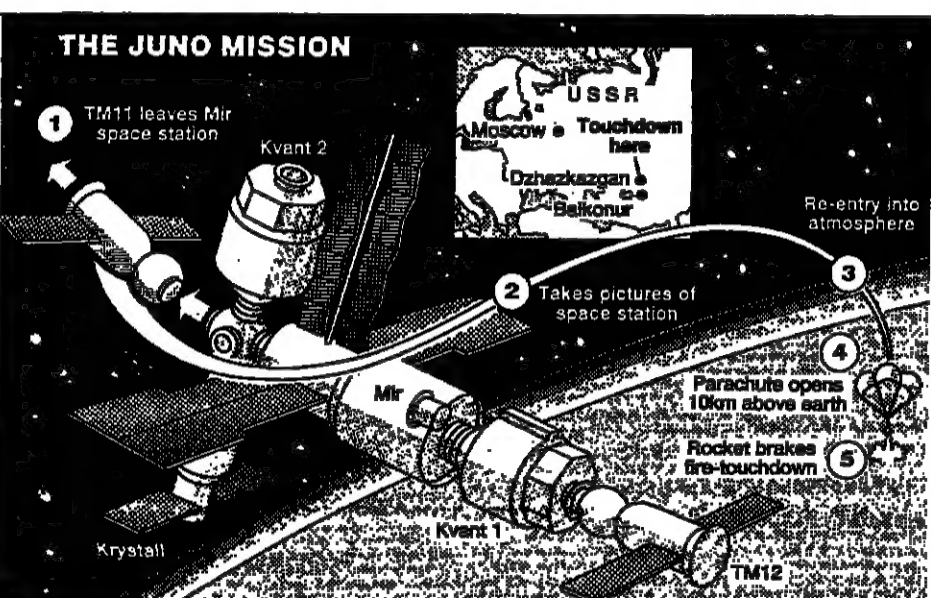
After orbiting Earth about one-and-a-half times, Soyuz's rockets were fired again at

10.42am to send the craft hurtling through the atmosphere at 8km a second for its final descent. Inside the heavily insulated capsule, Miss Sharman will have seen flames fly past the ship as friction and speed turned the Soyuz's heat shield red hot at 7,000C.

Eight minutes after re-entry, the craft's primary, braking and main parachutes opened successfully at a height of 10km, slowing the capsule to a safe 250-300 metres a second. The four retro rockets fired one metre above the ground, slowing the capsule for a bumpy but safe landing.

The Juno mission may have attracted derision and hostility for its game-style show selection and lack of serious British experiments, but its long-term educational value should not be underestimated in a country where science and technology continue to struggle in schools.

Lyndis Sharman, the astronaut's mother, said that Juno had fired the enthusiasm of schoolchildren in everything from geography and space science to cooking, with infants baking cakes in the shape of Soyuz rockets. Possibly the most curious disclosure of the mission was the discovery that Soviet scientists have developed a special "health drink" for space made of 53 per cent alcohol and called Senstate, an old Moldavian word for health.



AGENDA The week ahead

Today: US-sponsored Ethiopian peace talks to start.

Tomorrow: Esther Rantzen at launch of Eat, Drink and Sleep smoke-free guide. Princess of Wales visits RAF Wittering, Cambridgeshire.

Wednesday: Liberal Democrats open environment campaign. Post Office counter clerks begin four-day strike. National Association of Head Teachers meets in Scarborough. Hotelier of Year named. Gulf warship HMS London returns to capital. Funeral of Rachel McLean, Oxford student.

Thursday: Ian Lang, Scottish secretary, to announce share price for electricity privatisation.

Friday: Cathedral to be opened in Brentwood, Essex. Royal naval Museum marks 75th anniversary of Battle of Jutland. Queen Mother presents colours to Light Infantry.

Saturday: British Iris Society show, Royal Horticultural Society, Wisley, Surrey.

Sunday: Dutch professor delivers lecture on therapy of laughing, CW House, 18 Northumberland Avenue, central London.

Euro agency for children

BRITISH parents are involved in setting up a Europe-wide organisation to look for missing children, it was confirmed yesterday.

The charity Reunite, the National Council for Abducted Children, is engaged in discussions to set up an agency expected to be based in Brussels and called Missing Children International.

Ian McCartney, Labour MP for Macclesfield and a Reunite member, said yesterday: "We hope to set this up across Europe, then make it broader still." The agency, expected to be funded by voluntary contributions and government grants, aimed to set up a register of lost youngsters.

It is thought that more than 500 British children a year are abducted by parents estranged from their spouses.

Crew held after £4.5m drug find

By KERRY GILL

THE crew of a Greek-registered ore carrier, the Dimitrios, were being questioned by customs officials yesterday after cocaine with a street value of £4.5 million was found on board when it docked at Hunterston on the Clyde coast.

The 46,000-tonne vessel, which was carrying 127,000 tonnes of iron ore for British Steel, came from Sepetiba, Brazil, with its crew of 26 Greeks and two Filipinos. The 29kg (64lb) of cocaine, some of it badly damaged by sea water, was hidden in the ship's propeller shaft.

A customs and excise spokesman said that officers stumbled on the drugs as they searched the vessel and noted that some of the crew were behaving suspiciously. It is believed that the cocaine may have been bound for The Netherlands, where the Dimitrios was due to sail after unloading at Hunterston, but the spokesman added that the cocaine could have been removed by divers at any port.

All the crew have been kept on board the ship, which is registered on the island of Chios, Greece, although no one has been charged. Customs officers are continuing their search of the vessel.

The seizure is the latest in a series of successes by customs and excise officers off the west coast of Scotland. A Dutch captain was jailed this month after a smuggling operation was intercepted, and in November more than two tonnes of cannabis was seized from a ship off the Hebridean island of Barra.

Shortly before Christmas 500kg of cocaine with an estimated street value of £50 million was seized in the northwest of Scotland.

Mr Gregory said: "People don't seem to realise that this country's personality, as well as its economy, is in decline. We are churlish, blunt and brusque with one another and Neanderthal in getting on with each other. The society is not censorious. We're just trying to inject a bit of politeness into a turbulent society. We've enlisted several schools, and held four national days of courtesy. Every day, every one of us is faced with some confrontational situation. It's just a matter of controlling your temper as best you can."

"People used to think we were eccentric, but now I get calls from all over the world from newspapers and radio stations. One asked what I thought of Kitty Kelley's book on Nancy Reagan. I told them it was unpleasant and unnecessary."

So has Mr Gregory become a sort of agony aunt, the Claire Rayner of courtesy? "How dreadful!" he says. "No, she's very nice really."

Manners survive the cold shoulder

By JOE JOSEPH

THE Polite Society has decided to carry on reminding the rest of us to say please and thank you after the defeat of a proposal to disband the five-year-old group at a general members' meeting in Derby at the weekend.

The society's membership has shrunk from about 1,000 to 400, and its finances are precarious. Yesterday, the Rev Ian Gregory, the Congregationalist minister from Newcastle-under-Lyme who founded the society, said: "Unfortunately, most people don't renew their membership, however politely we ask."

"We need about £25,000 a year to keep the thing going. We've decided to put it on a care-and-maintenance basis and set up a small working party to come up with a strategy in a few months' time. I've written to about 180 firms and corporations asking for sponsorship. I got replies from 89, who all said their funds were exhausted. The others didn't bother to reply at all." How rude.

Mr Gregory said: "People don't seem to realise that this country's personality, as well as its economy, is in decline. We are churlish, blunt and brusque with one another and Neanderthal in getting on with each other. The society is not censorious. We're just trying to inject a bit of politeness into a turbulent society. We've enlisted several schools, and held four national days of courtesy. Every day, every one of us is faced with some confrontational situation. It's just a matter of controlling your temper as best you can."

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Stage almost set for multi-party sessions of talks on Ulster

By RICHARD FORD, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE rules under which an independent chairman will conduct talks between Northern Ireland's political parties and the Dublin government are expected to be given to the province's leading politicians tomorrow.

Peter Brooke, the Northern Ireland secretary, will today complete a document outlining the chairman's terms of reference for the talks.

Both governments have also been preparing a list of people who could chair stage two of the talks, which will involve the province's four constitutional parties and British and Irish ministers devising a relationship between the Republic and Northern Ireland. The names will be considered by all the parties in the talks.

In spite of a weekend of Loyalist and Republican violence, in which a soldier and Sinn Féin councillor died, when the politicians arrive at Stormont tomorrow for further bilateral talks with Mr Brooke it will be against a background of hope, following three weeks in which the process neared collapse.

The Unionist agreement that the bulk of stage two of

the talks would be held at Stormont has meant that only the choice of the chairman and his terms of reference remain to be agreed. Given the difficulties of the past three weeks it is not clear whether Mr Brooke will want agreement on those before the start of negotiations on devising an administration for the province. The SDLP fears that starting the multi-party talks without full agreement on stage two will risk further wrangling.

After three weeks of the ten weeks set aside for the initiative, there is a growing expectation that the period will have to be extended or the talks adjourned until after the summer holiday, which in Northern Ireland traditionally starts around July 12. The Irish government and nationalist leaders would be reluctant to allow a lengthy adjournment, however, as they remain suspicious that the Unionist's real intention is to cause long-term damage to the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Although the recent upsurge in IRA violence provoked a response on Saturday from Loyalist paramilitaries, who had previously announced a conditional ceasefire, the violence will overshadow rather than threaten to wreck the talks. Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist party's security spokesman, said: "The terrorists will not set the

agenda. We will not allow them to."

The soldier who died in Saturday's IRA bomb attack on the North Howard Street army base in west Belfast was Corporal Terence O'Neill, aged 44, from Morpeth, Northumberland. Corporal O'Neill caught the full force of an explosion from a device thrown over a wall. Another soldier from the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers was also injured and was critically ill in hospital yesterday.

An army spokesman said: "It seems the terrorists threw the device more in hope and unfortunately the soldiers were in the wrong place at the wrong time." Corporal O'Neill had been in the Army for almost 22 years and was due to leave in six months.

Hours before that attack, the outlawed Ulster Freedom Fighters crossed the border into Co Donegal and shot dead Eddie Fullerton, a Sinn Féin councillor. The Loyalist paramilitary group's killing was seen as revenge for a spate of IRA attacks.

In Cookstown, Co Tyrone, two policemen were slightly hurt and 11 civilians treated for shock after an IRA van bomb exploded in the centre of a mostly Protestant housing estate on Saturday. A warning was given but many of the 60 families forced to leave their homes had to flee past the bomb, police said. Many homes were damaged.

Pilots are against longer duty hours

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

PLANS by European aviation officials to allow pilots to fly for up to 14 hours at a stretch could endanger the lives of passengers, a European-wide group of pilots said yesterday. Representatives of pilot organisations from 20 countries, meeting in Amsterdam, heard details of a proposal to ease the strict limits on duty hours, which could be in place by the end of the year.

Roger Mulberge, a British Airways captain, described the plans being drawn up by the European-wide Joint Aviation Authority as ludicrous. "It would appear that the proposals before the JAA working group would, if implemented, put back aviation safety to levels existing in the 1950s and 1960s. The flight crew members of Euroflights (a European organisation of airline pilots' associations) are not prepared to stand by and

see the lives of their passengers threatened by this derogation of internationally accepted standards of safety. We will take whatever action is necessary to ensure the maintenance of adequate protection against excessive fatigue."

The proposals could see changes to national limits for flying times which were set, based on advice from medical and flight safety experts, after aircraft accidents related to pilot fatigue. Companies would be able to make pilots fly up to 100 hours a month compared with an average of 80 hours under the present British guidelines, and a single shift could increase from 12.5 to 14 hours, Captain Mulberge said.

Talks are planned with European aviation bodies to press for changes in the proposed rules.

Paying the price for calling in expert help

By RODNEY HOBSON AND MICHAEL HORSNELL

MEND your own broken window panes but get an expert in to lay a patio, research from the Household Mortgage Corporation on do-it-yourself instructs.

A glazier may take only 30 minutes to put in a new pane, but he will cost five times as much as a home-job. Calling in a professional patio builder merely doubles the cost, even though the work might take 14 days.

HMC's research shows that tradesmen may cost considerably more since the DIY enthusiast is working for no pay, but that they will take a fraction of the time and should do the job to professional standards. For example, replacing roof tiles costs three times as much when done by a specialist, but the job is over in an hour.

The survey met little agreement yesterday from the do-it-yourselfers at the Homebase store in Seven Kings, Ilford, Essex. For Robert Hooper, aged 39, a

local transport manager, the frustrations of hanging his new pine bedroom door had not even begun as he pushed and shoved to fit the thing in his car. He said: "May be I should have taken the seats out before I set off," he said.

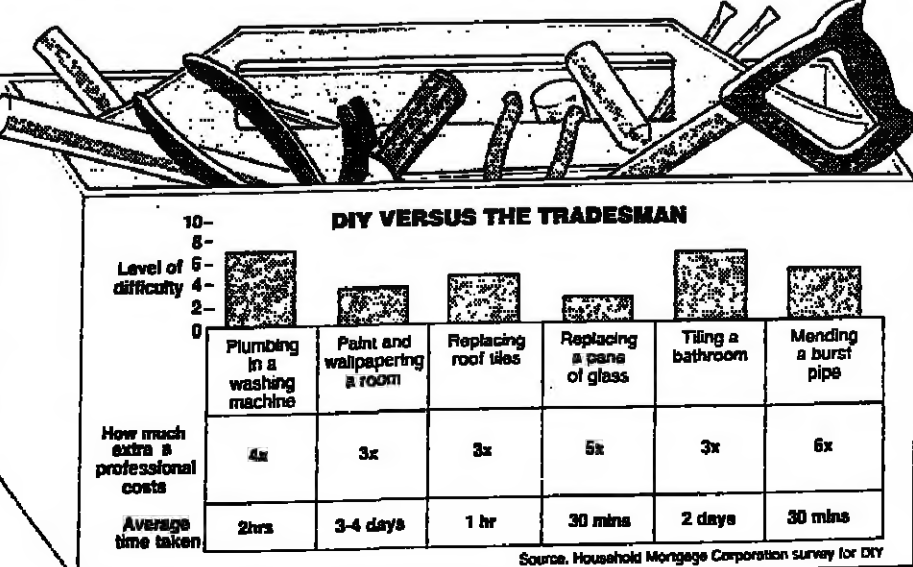
"I've got no worries about fitting the door, though; I like doing it myself. The only thing I won't touch is a big electrical job. That's a disaster for me. The last time I nearly killed myself. I was fitting new lighting, and

made the acquaintance of a live wire."

Patrick Murphy, aged 27, a labourer who wished he were a plumber, was buying pointed plans. "I'm fine with DIY myself," he said. "But there are a lot of people who get themselves into the most terrible twist. I'm always getting called out to do a job someone thought he could do himself. People usually can't assemble things like fitted wardrobes."

Mr Brian Whitfield, HMC marketing director, says: "There are some jobs that it is best to tackle yourself if you can. Modern pipe joints mean that fixing a burst pipe is well within the scope of a do-it-yourselfer. If you called in a plumber, it would cost six times as much."

Those who send for the expert should get at least four quotes, and remember that the lowest is not always the best. HMC says in its quarterly magazine.



BREAK-IN AT MUSTARD CLUB

By IVOR STOREY, INVESTIGATIVE REPORTER

THE hal-
lowed
head-
quarters of the
Mustard Club
were entered
last night and
treasured Club
possessions
stolen.

I SPOKE
to Inspector
Sam Which
of the Crime
Squad, in
charge of the
investigation.

"What was
taken?" I
asked. He con-
sulted his
notes. "Well,"
he replied,
"they were
obviously after
the gold. They
kept pots of it here, you
know." At this point
Colonel Mustard MC.
Hon. Sec. of the Club
spoke up. "You must take
some blame for this you
know," he accused me.

"After all those sensational
articles in the press, there
are a lot of people out there
who would like to get their
hands on it."

I asked the
Inspector for a
statement. "There's
a chance the
thieves will try
and use any
opportunity to
pass it wherever
they can. And they
will find a lot of
takers." "But
surely it's
hot?" I asked.
"A lot of people
find that makes
it even more
desirable,"
he answered, "but
you could help
by publishing
this photofit
picture of the
missing loot."

THE po-
lice gave
a
description. "About 4 inches
high. Ingenious lid
screws off to reveal
gold contents. Fully hall-
marked on the outside
with famous maker's name
and bull motif. There are
many counterfeits, but they
could never be mistaken
for the real thing. If you
are offered some, you will
find



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Undertakers try to bury reputation for greed

By DOUGLAS BROOM, LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

UNDERTAKERS are to launch a campaign to improve their image after persistent complaints that they are overcharging for funerals.

Patricia Bennett, first president of the National Association of Funeral Directors, last week urged the association's annual conference to act to restore the profession's dignity.

That dignity has worn thin in recent years the Office of Fair Trading and the Consumers' Association have criticised undertakers for high prices and failing to tell clients the true cost of funerals.

The average funeral now costs £893 for a burial and £726 for a cremation, according to the annual funeral survey produced by the Manchester Oddfellows. For people of

modest means such a bill — more than double an average poll tax — can be a devastating blow in the midst of grief.

The Office of Fair Trading found that the price of funerals had risen by 28 per cent above the rate of inflation since 1975 and the Consumers' Association says it receives a steady stream of letters from people unable to meet funeral bills.

One of the more common complaints is the charge made for coffins, most of which are veneered chipboard. Lawrence Cumliffe, Labour MP for Leigh, Greater Manchester, who has investigated the trade, says profits of 400 per cent are common. "They are selling coffins to the public at £200 which cost them £33. I have the manufacturers' price lists so I know the figures are correct," he said.

Mr Cumliffe has also criticised undertakers for basing their fees on the assumption that each funeral involves 40 man-hours of work. He claims most funerals take only ten hours to arrange.

Fred Leighton, chairman of the Funeral Furnishing Manufacturers' Association, who represents the coffin-makers, says that Mr Cumliffe's figures are misleading. "He talks about funeral directors buying coffins for £17.50. For that price you would get a cheap chipboard box that no funeral director would use. We make such things but only for the use of medical schools who wish to remove the remains of those who have given their bodies for research."

A basic low-cost coffin of veneered chipboard of the kind most people would expect to see in a hearse would be around £40. By the time you have added linings and fittings it would cost £80. A solid wooden coffin would be £200.

Julian Litten, a curator at the Victoria and Albert Museum, who has just published *The English Way of Death*, says: "Funerals are expensive but I do not think they are a rip-off. Dignity costs money." He defends most funeral directors as "caring, compassionate people who understand that we need ceremony to cope with bereavement."

Peter Wilcox, whose family firm of undertakers arranges funerals in Surrey, said: "There are aspects of our work which Mr Cumliffe either cannot or will not acknowledge. Like the fact that a fortnight ago, on a rainy horrible night I was out on the road at 3am taking two young men out of a very smashed-up motor car. They were in a very injured state. That is the part of our work that Mr Cumliffe does not want to know about."

Although expensive, funerals in Britain are no more so than those in Europe or the United States. Cheap funerals are to be had from £150 for a pauper's burial in France to £500 for a simple ceremony with plain coffin in Greece.

THE future of the company car is in serious doubt, according to a survey of personnel managers published today. It also finds that companies are increasingly optimistic about securing lower wage deals, and suggest that pressure on budgets for training is decreasing.

The findings suggest that the government's long push against company cars in successive tax changes, especially those introduced in this year's Budget, are having an effect.

FUNERAL COSTS (in £, based on an actual Lancashire bill)

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Professional fee (40 hours) | 350 |
| Coffin and fittings | 202 |
| Hearse and one limousine | 141 |
| Embalming | 20 |
| Taking body to chapel of rest | 42 |
| Cremation fee | 74 |
| Doctors' fees (cremation papers) | 51 |
| Flowers | 20 |
| Burial of ashes | 43 |
| TOTAL | 843 |

*In London a typical professional fee would be £550.
Source: Lawrence Cumliffe MP

Death the American way is a bill before you die

YOU are at home with your family when the phone rings and you hear the chirpy voice of one of those infuriating "telemarketers" who call to sell insurance during dinner. "Have you thought about investing for the future? Do you want to spare your children any worries?" you are asked. The subject is, however, not the usual life insurance but the opposite: death insurance.

Such calls are the latest tool of cemeteries and big chains of "bereavement service" companies (better known as undertakers) fighting in the fastest-growing section of the American funeral industry. With the death rate dropping and profits sliding, the business has turned with enthusiasm towards what it calls "pre-need" services.

The idea is simple. Instead of inflicting on your next of kin the stress of organising a "last need" funeral, you pay now and choose the methods and trappings of your disposal, including embalming, coffin, type of service, burial or cremation. Say you choose a \$3,000 (£1,700) funeral, a figure on the low side these days, you write a cheque

for that amount and the annual interest until your demise covers inflation and any higher costs.

More than a quarter of all US funerals are paid for through "pre-need" or "forethought" plans, and the industry, which turns over \$3.5 billion a year, expects the figure to reach 60 per cent by the year 2000.

At the same time, American cemeteries are reporting booming pre-need business from well-heeled young professionals eager to secure a piece of prime real estate for their last resting place.

"If you struggle all your life to get good jobs and the best apartments and to send your children to Harvard," a New York doctor said, "why the hell should you want to spend 3,000 years lying under a highway in Queens?" He and his wife have secured a corner of an expensive Long Island cemetery.

Even now a last resting place in one of the more select commercial cemeteries can set you back thousands. It costs \$11,600 for a slot in Westwood Village Memorial Park, Los Angeles, the burial ground of Marilyn Monroe. The pre-need

American undertakers hit by a falling death rate are seeking profits in "pay before you die" services, reports Charles Bremner

business is attracting the charges of fraud and exploitation which have always dogged the American funeral business. This is one market where the consumer is not around to check that he gets his money's worth.

Abuses reported in recent months have included embezzlement, misleading television commercials and claims that people are paying thousands of dollars for catafalque "burial systems" that turn out to be little more than plastic containers.

America, a country long distinguished for its extravagant way of death, underwent its last spate of scandals over funeral costs and fraud in the early Eighties. As a response, the federal government adopted the "funeral rule" in 1984, fixing prices and protecting consumers from unfair practices. But

there is no love lost between the public and those in the death business. Dick Callahan, the public relations officer for the California Funeral Directors' Association, complained in the *Wall Street Journal* last month that the profession was unfairly considered "a gang of thieves".

To improve their image, many big funeral chains are offering "after-care" services and products for the bereaved. These include grief counselling and "video tributes". For about £100 more than your basic embalming, casket (coffin) and burial package, the undertaker sends photographs of the deceased and of his or her family, pets, car, even favourite foods to the National Music Service of Spokane, Washington. Back comes a video montage with backgrounds of sunsets and waterfalls, all set to such songs as "Misty" and "He ain't heavy, he's my brother".

Without burial costs, an average undertaking service costs between \$3,000 and \$5,000 (£1,700 and £2,900). Coffins cost anything from \$300 (£175) to \$10,000 (£5,800) for

such special versions as bejewelled copies of Tutankhamun's sarcophagus.

Jessica Mitford, the author of the *American Way of Death*, the 1963 best-seller, has been campaigning against the continuing excesses.

A number of companies offer no-frills, and sometimes non-profit, funeral services for about £580, a fraction of the standard cost. "Immediate disposition" allows for the body to be buried or cremated without ceremony within 24 hours of death. A memorial service can be arranged later.

At the other extreme there are the do-it-yourself funerals. Forty-five states now allow friends or family to transport and care for their own dead, preparing the corpse for burial if embalming is not required.

Hampshire state's medical examiner, Dr Roger Fossum, advised against it. "Death is not always loving," he told the legislature. "Many times it is smelly and dirty, messy and ugly. In certain conditions in summer the person could be unrecognisable to loved ones in just three to four hours."

Call for easing of housing controls

By OUR LOCAL GOVERNMENT CORRESPONDENT

PLANNING controls must be relaxed to allow more house-building and prevent another boom in property prices, according to a report published today.

Housing Choice, a free market housing think tank, argues that restrictions on house-building, particularly in the South-East, were responsible for creating the house price boom of the late 1980s. The prime cause of imbalance between supply and demand in housing, which forced prices up, was tight development control through the planning system.

"These distortions have been greatest in the South-East, where the problem has reached its greatest proportions," the report says. It adds that high interest rates alone will not cure inflation, and says that once rates fall property prices will rise, encouraging more borrowing by homeowners.

"The increase in the value of Britain's housing stock, as demand has exceeded supply, has given Britain's nation of home-owners a substantial equity in their homes against which to borrow," the group says. The impression created in the late 1980s, that house prices would increase inexorably, gave people the confidence to borrow against those assets, thus leading to the explosion of credit.

Mortgage tax relief is not the culprit when it comes to encouraging property price booms, the report says. Noting that relief is limited to the first £30,000 of any home loan, it describes it as unrealistic to suppose that it had any significant effect in the South-East.

The report concludes by calling on the prime minister to back up his recent remarks that the house price boom fuelled inflation with action to release more land for housing.

Tony Burton, senior planner with the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said: "There is no evidence that there is any shortage of land for building. At the moment there is 58 per cent more land identified for housing than is required by county structure plans." There was also no evidence that a shortage of land for housing drove up prices.

"There has been no change in the availability of land in the last 18 months, but prices have come to a standstill. The reality is that house prices have much more to do with the availability of mortgage finance, interest rates and the policy of the Chancellor of the Exchequer," he added.



Pedal-power: When David Ellis took on the job as a relief signaller at Nairn station on the Moray Firth he discovered two welcome perks: a Raleigh bicycle, and the chance to regain the fitness of youth (Kerry Gill writes). During a year Mr Ellis, aged 32, and colleagues each cover hundreds of miles up and down what is believed to be the longest station platform in the Scottish network.

The £138 bicycle is provided by ScotRail to help the men in their duties, which include changing signals at the station's two signal-boxes, some quarter of a mile apart. Years ago, when labour was comparatively cheap, there used to be a signaller at each box, but now one man, pedalling hard on his sit-up-and-beg, can operate the old-fashioned signalling system between Inverness and Forres as well as selling tickets. Mr Ellis says it is not as simple as it seems: "It depends on the wind. When it is coming from the west, it whistles down the platform from the direction of Inverness and you have to push hard; but at least you can freewheel back." The black, three-speed bicycle is shared by the three resident signallers and four relief men and is locked in the guardroom when the station closes. "When I began using a bike again after so many years I nearly died," Mr Ellis said, "but it has certainly got me fit. I keep it locked in third gear, but some of the older men use a lower gear."

□ Above, signaller Gordon Milne at Nairn with another man for the bicycle: preparing to hand over the single-track taken to an oncoming driver.

Doubtful future for company cars

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

THE future of the company car is in serious doubt, according to a survey of personnel managers published today. It also finds that companies are increasingly optimistic about securing lower wage deals, and suggest that pressure on budgets for training is decreasing.

The findings suggest that the government's long push against company cars in successive tax changes, especially those introduced in this year's Budget, are having an effect.

The survey of 265 personnel managers and directors by *Personnel Today* magazine shows that almost half of companies (48 per cent) are reviewing their company car schemes. Alterations being examined include changing the quality of cars, altering eligibility and ending the perk.

The survey says: "The future of that *sine qua non* of executive perks, the company car, is now in serious doubt."

Government statistics indicate that average earnings are now growing more slowly, and the survey suggests considerable optimism on the employers' side that pay can be kept down. Fifty-two per cent of personnel specialists surveyed suggest that they were optimistic about reaching lower wage deals, with 10 per cent very optimistic. Some managers are worried, though, that increases in VAT, electricity prices and water rates will push up pay claims.

Sixty-nine per cent were optimistic about cutting unit labour costs, a marked rise on 56 per cent three months ago. Although the recession has put pressure on training budgets, the survey says that the number of personnel managers predicting difficulty in obtaining money for training has fallen 11 percentage points in three months. Even so, the proportion forecasting greater difficulty over training funding is still high, at 59 per cent.

How James became just William

MODELS at Madame Tussaud's beware: that mischievous schoolboy William Brown is loose among the exhibits.

The tousle-haired tearaway of Richmal Crompton's *Just William* books has joined the famous and the infamous as the latest addition to the top tourist attraction.

The waxwork was inspired by James Tussaud, aged nine, the great-great-great-grandson of the museum's creator. James, two years younger than William, who has been 11 for more than 70 years, became one of the museum's youngest models after visiting the exhibition last year, centenary of the author's birth.

Tussaud's said: "We thought he would be a fantastic Just William. He has a wonderful mischievous smile." Now William, in blue and white cap, tie askew and clutching a catapult, can be seen peering over a wall, spotting celebrities at the exhibition's Garden Party.

Nelson's friend yields up medals

By JOHN SHAW

MEDALS belonging to an officer who stood next to Nelson as he put a telescope to his blind eye and defied orders during the Battle of Copenhagen in 1801 will be sold in London next month.

Admiral Sir Thomas Foley was a friend and confidante of Nelson and one of the famous "band of brothers". His group

of five decorations has recently been rediscovered, and, according to Daniel Fearon, managing director of Glendinning's, the coins and medals specialist, is expected to make up to £40,000 at auction on June 20.

They include the Order of the Bath, military division (KCB 1815, GCB 1820), gold medals for the Battle of St Vincent and Battle of the Nile, and Alexander Davidson's gold medal for the Nile, one of only 25 struck.

Nelson, who was second in command of the British fleet during an attack on the Danish fleet anchored off Copenhagen, was on board the ship commanded by Foley when the command to disengage was issued to prevent further British losses. Nelson, in one of the most famous gestures of naval history, put a telescope to his sightless eye, turned to Foley and said: "I really do not see the signal."



Foley: witness to historic gesture in naval history

Police running short of manpower to beat crime

ON A typical day last year Devon and Cornwall police dealt with 248 crimes, 37 road traffic accidents, 13 sudden deaths, and made 87 arrests. The force could field one uniformed officer for every 10 square miles.

When John Evans, the chief constable, wrote the foreword to his annual report last year, he said he could not imagine a report in which he never mentioned manpower shortages and workloads. Few colleagues would disagree.

An analysis of 20 published reports by forces in England and Wales for 1990 shows manpower shortages, increasing demands and rising trends in recorded crime dominating the thoughts of chief constables. Many now urge a fresh way of measuring their productivity, noting that arrests and cleared up crimes continue to rise as steadily as reports of fresh cases.

Many have also committed themselves to greater efforts to sell their force, both to the public and to their own officers. Reports are becoming more lavish, bursting with acronyms, force goals and pithy mottoes. In Lancashire it is Caring for the County; in Northamptonshire People Who Care About People. But slogans cannot stop some chief constables reporting that paragon of Home Office manpower allocations leave them struggling with force strengths set in the 1970s when policing was less demanding.

The problems beset not only the biggest forces. David Burke, for North Yorkshire, said that since his force was formed in 1974 recorded crime had risen by 82 per cent, the population by 12 per cent,

Crime has risen by four-fifths since 1974 in one county, and police strength by a tenth. Stewart Tandler reviews chief constables' reports

emergency calls by 41 per cent and registered vehicles by 17 per cent. In the same period, manpower rose by 10 per cent.

In Dyfed-Powys, demand had doubled since the force size was fixed in 1975, and recruiting stopped in Leicestershire because of the costs of unexpected incidents. In Avon and Somerset, restrictions on spending for new buildings meant that the force's headquarters was the worst in the country.

Chief constables sometimes commented in apocalyptic terms on last year's increase in recorded crime. Ron Had-

field, for West Midlands, said the police alone could not reverse the trend and that they should concentrate on prevention and deterrence rather than looking at rising arrest rates.

On the basis of the trends and the British Crime Survey projections, he said that crime would be at epidemic proportions by the year 2000. If arrest rates also increased, the facilities of courts and prisons might be exhausted.

Michael Hirst, for Leicestershire, said the cause was not simply that thief-proof vehicles are not being made and

burglar-resistant houses are not being built. An increasing proportion of society seemed incapable of behaving in a socially responsible way.

Several chief constables suggested that the rise in recorded crime should not be exaggerated. In North Yorkshire, every pensioner received a letter from the chief constable explaining the very low risk they faced from crime.

Richard Wells, for South Yorkshire, supported the greater use of officers on the beat. He said: "Just being there is a much undervalued aspect of our policing. The sight of the officer on the street corner or patrolling a beat with time to talk sends a clear signal that life is as normal as one can expect."

In Lincolnshire, Neville Owens was not completely convinced. "I also believe the

culture of reassurance policing, whilst being understandable and highly commendable as a philosophy, fails to be successful unless the reassurance benefits can be identified quite clearly." The increase in crime in rural areas was not reassuring, and his officers would have to shoulder more work reacting to crime.

At his headquarters in the City of London, Owen Kelly might allow himself a wry smile. He believes the Square Mile has the safest streets in the world, with a 2.35 per cent reduction in recorded violent crime last year from 215 to 210 cases. Overall, recorded crime rose by 0.6 per cent or 45 cases.

All in all, Mr Kelly said, with what looks suspiciously like an understatement, 1990 was "a fairly good year".

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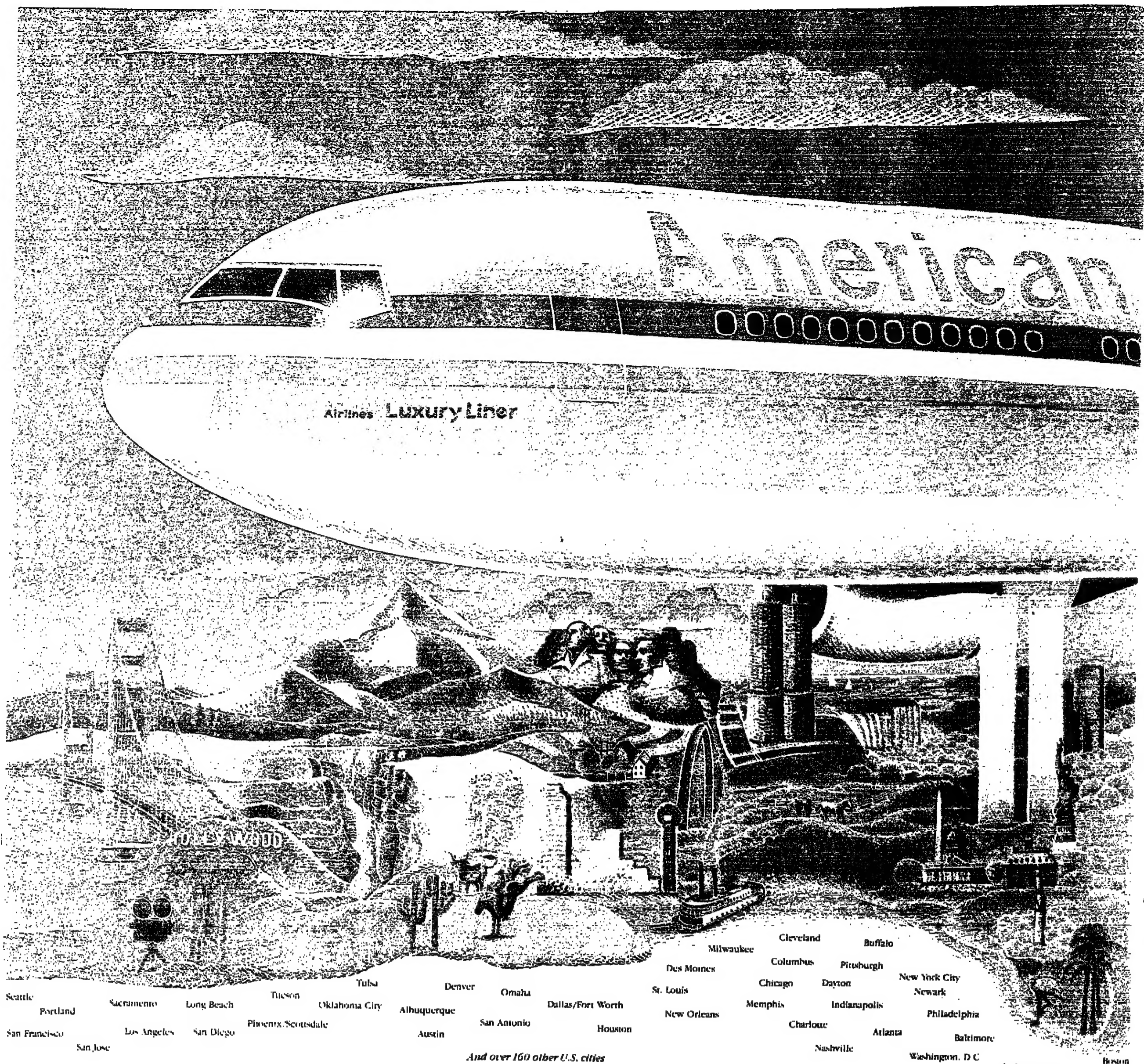
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| Chicago | 13:45 | 16:25 | 47 | 2 July 1991 |
| Los Angeles | 10:30 | 14:30 | 137 | 21 July 1991 |
| Miami | 10:00 | 15:10 | 57 | 2 July 1991 |
| Newark, NJ | 11:00 | 14:25 | 115 | 2 July 1991 |
| New York (JFK) | 09:00 | 11:50 | 101 | 2 July 1991 |
| New York (JFK) | 11:50 | 14:20 | 105 | 2 July 1991 |
| New York (JFK) | 18:00 | 21:00 | 107 | 2 July 1991 |
| From: Gatwick | | | | |
| To: Chicago | 10:05 | 13:20 | 87 | 13 June 1991* |
| Chicago | 13:25 | 16:40 | 47 | 2 June 1991* |
| Dallas/Fort Worth | 10:40 | 14:50 | 51 | Current |
| Dallas/Fort Worth | 13:00 | 17:25 | 79 | Current |
| Miami | 10:00 | 15:05 | 57 | Current |
| New York (JFK) | 12:15 | 15:15 | 7 | 21 July 1991 |
| From: Manchester | | | | |
| To: Chicago | 10:25 | 13:00 | 55 | Current |
| New York (JFK) | 12:00 | 15:00 | 95 | 2 July 1991 |
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Four in ten cereal farmers could get paid for idle land

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FOUR in ten British cereal farmers could be paid out of public funds to leave part of their land fallow next year under emergency measures agreed by the European Community to curb swelling surpluses of food, it was claimed yesterday.

John Gummer, the agriculture minister, back home after four days and two all-night sessions of grueling negotiations with his EC colleagues in Brussels, said paying farmers to grow nothing would be cheaper than subsidising over-production.

"I think the incentives are sufficiently high to attract at least 40 per cent and perhaps as many as 45 per cent of farmers now growing cereals," he said. "It will cost less than allowing them to go on producing, where the expense lies in the storage of surplus produce and the payment of export refunds. Equally important, from the point of view of our international trading partners in the Gatt [General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade], is that we will not be flooding the world with our over-production."

The one-year payments for leaving land idle, which will reinforce an existing five-year "set aside" scheme, are certain to intensify criticism that farmers are being paid to do nothing while workers in other

recession-hit industries join lengthening unemployment queues.

Relatively few farmers have shown interest in "set aside". No more than 3 per cent of the cereals acreage is estimated to have been taken out of production in Britain and even less in the rest of the EC. Newspaper headlines have focused on a handful of wealthy landowners who, quite legally, have entered the scheme.

The latest one to find himself under unwanted scrutiny is Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, who is reported to be planning to put 700 acres of his large estate near Sittingbourne, Kent, into "set aside". He was criticised last week for having accepted a 17 per cent pay rise while counselling wage restraint for others.

Farmers will qualify for the new one-year scheme if they agree to let 15 per cent of their cereal land lie fallow next season. In addition, they will be exempt from paying a 5 per cent production tax on the cereals they are still growing that is levied automatically when EC output exceeds a specified ceiling.

The scheme would be particularly attractive for farmers who now have all of their arable land in cereals. Agriculture ministry officials

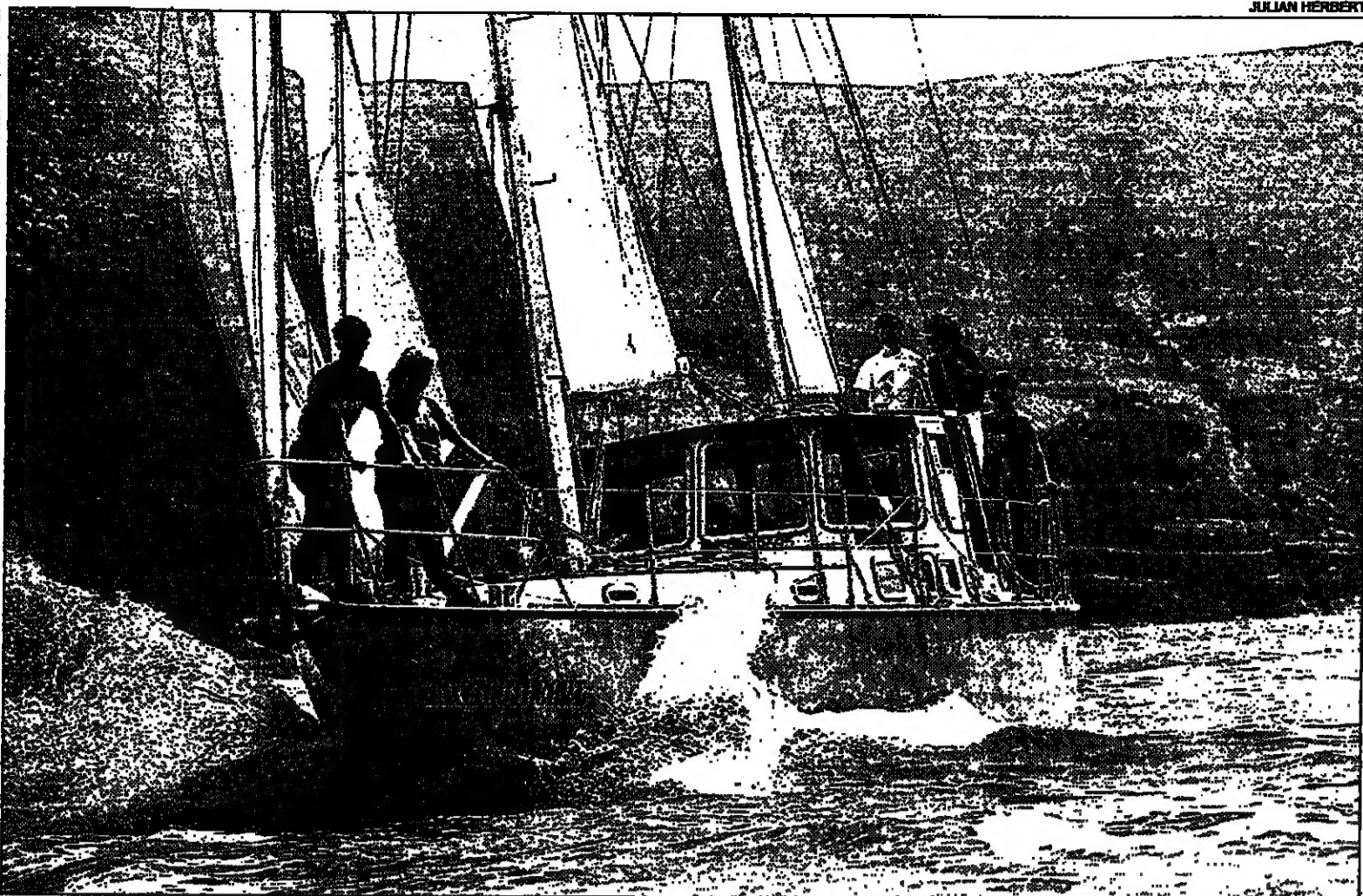
calculate that on average they would be paid £163 an acre. For those with only 50 per cent of their land in cereals, the benefit would be £106 an acre.

These payments are much higher than those available to farmers locked into the existing five-year scheme. They qualify for a maximum payment of £90 an acre and they will still be liable to pay part of the production tax.

Environmentalists are divided over the benefits of "set aside". Some see it as encouraging a two-tier agriculture in which production is concentrated on a shrinking and ever more intensively cultivated acreage, while others see potential for using idle land to create more sympathetic habitats for birds, animals and wild flowers.

The Brussels deal is seen as merely a holding operation pending a longer-term reform of the common agricultural policy.

The moving farm, page 12
Leading article, page 15



Class of the ocean wave pupils from Saddleworth comprehensive school, Oldham, Greater Manchester, finding their sea legs off Anglesey at the weekend when they began training

for the Cutty Sark tall ships race. They will be the first crew from a comprehensive to take part in a project that has been the passion of one of their teachers for the past two

years (Lin Jenkins writes). Kathryn Brounch, aged 26, a physical education teacher, and her husband David, aged 30, who teaches at another school in Oldham, bought

the steel ketch as a bare hull and deck two years ago and have spent their spare time fitting her out. The crew are contributing towards the costs of the race.

Nations meet to review ban on killing of whales

From MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT, IN REYKJAVIK

THE worldwide protection given five years ago to the great whales faces its first serious challenge here this week when the moratorium on commercial whaling is reviewed at the 43rd annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission.

Three pro-whaling countries, Iceland, Norway, and Japan, will demand the resumption of limited whaling, which they claim is now possible with certain species without hunting them to extinction. They are unlikely to secure the necessary three-quarters majority of



Rula Lenska: "Killing of these creatures must stop" the 36 member states, and have threatened to leave the commission to resume hunting.

Such a move would provoke an international outcry and could lead to a boycott of goods from whaling nations. There has already been strong opposition from around the world. About 2,000 protesters took part in a rally yesterday at Trafalgar Square, London. One of them, the actress Rula Lenska, said: "The killing of these beautiful creatures, who suffer long lingering deaths at the hands of mankind, must stop."

The three countries campaigning for a reopening of the trade claim variously that their national traditions are being ignored, that their economies are being damaged, and that their sovereign right to harvest the resources of the sea is being infringed.

The main complaint, however, is that the commission, set up in 1949, is no longer an organisation regulating whaling, but one preventing it. This, in part, is true as some countries, including Britain, which have given up the trade, have turned their interests in the commission solely to conservation.

This week's meeting, which starts today, is likely to prove conclusively that there is now an inbuilt and permanent majority against whaling in the commission. Helgi Agustsson, Iceland's ambassador to Britain, said: "If the commission is not doing the job it is supposed to do, people will feel we have very little to do there."

The moratorium was agreed in 1982 and brought in four years later with the proviso that it be reviewed by 1990, after the commission had undertaken a reliable count of whale populations and developed a revised procedure for hunting them. The procedure was aimed at allowing a number to be killed each year without threatening stocks, which earlier hunting had preserved.

Last year's review of the moratorium, due at the commission's conference in The Netherlands, was cancelled as the revised procedure was not ready. It has now been completed and is likely to form the basis for this week's talks.

Oil scheme blocked

Michael Heseltine, the environment secretary, has blocked a scheme to prospect for oil near Hadrian's Wall. He has told planners to withhold consent for a £1.25 million test drilling approved last month while he considers the matter.

Northumberland county council ignored more than 100 protests and approved a temporary 135ft rig close to the 2,000-year-old World Heritage Site, near Corbridge. Arco British, a subsidiary of the American company Atlantic Richfield, wants to sink a 6,000ft borehole during a 53-day test.

Author's wish Airport rise

Admiral's attempts to provide a Lake District memorial to Alfred Wainwright were halted yesterday by his widow and a friend, Percy Duff, who said the author had wished only that his ashes be scattered beside Innominate Tarn. "His books are his permanent memorial," they said.

Icke taunted

Police went to the home at Ryde, Isle of Wight, of David Icke, the self-styled "Son of God" yesterday after over 100 youths gathered chanting "We want the Messiah" and "Give us a sign, David".

Stansted airport has announced a 60 per cent increase in scheduled flight passengers for April, the first full month since the opening of its £400 million new terminal.

Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings Premium Bonds weekly draw are: £100,000, bond number 28AS 685559, winner lives in Surrey; £50,000, 6DP 614024, Suffolk; £25,000, 35DB 812050, Middlesex.

Portfolio claims

There were no valid claims for the Fordbello Platinum weekly prize of £4,000.

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Confident Yeltsin plays down defeat on constitutional court

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

BORIS Yeltsin, looking every inch the Russian president he hopes to become on June 12, emerged from the five-day meeting of the full Russian parliament at the weekend to say that his bid to establish a presidential system in Russia was on course and that he was confident of victory. He believed his relations with President Gorbachev were now on an even keel, telling journalists: "Through the whole of our meeting on Friday we exchanged not a single unpleasant word — the first time this has happened."

Mr Yeltsin did not, however, dwell on the fact that his victory at last week's parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, was less than complete and that on one important issue — the establishment of a constitutional court — he had been roundly defeated. As a result, the power of the presidency will be restricted, and his attempt not only to become Russia's first directly elected president, but also to shape the character of the future administration

has been severely weakened. Members of the conservative opposition had set their sights against the constitutional court. Recognising that they had little chance of preventing the establishment of the presidency or postponing the June 12 elections, they had decided to concentrate instead on limiting the president's powers, in particular, on anything to do with the planned constitutional court.

Their behind-the-scenes lobbying campaign was quietly successful. The lack of conflict on the congress floor lulled everyone into a sense that everything was going well. But even before the final day of the congress on Saturday, Mr Yeltsin had suffered two defeats.

The Russian Federation is now lumbered with a law on the presidency which stipulates that the elected president cannot be a member of a political party, and a constitution which says that he can. The congress also cancelled a clause that would have given the president the power to

dismiss local officials for defying republic laws. This power, the congress decided, should rest only with parliament.

Saturday saw Mr Yeltsin's biggest defeat, however, when the congress failed twice to ratify the bill on establishing a constitutional court. How great a defeat this is for Mr Yeltsin depends on why he wanted the court and whether it was an unexpected loss or a bargain struck in return for acceptance of the presidency.

Mr Yeltsin's supporters say the court would have provided the crucial check on the power of the president. They say it needed to be in place when the president was elected so that the president's power was checked from the start. They note, however, that so long as the court comes into being soon after the presidential elections, Saturday's defeat means little.

Mr Yeltsin's opponents believe he was trying to rush through elections to the court during last week's congress so that he could pack it with his nominees.



Riding high: Mr Gamsakhurdia's portrait and the Georgian flag being brandished by a horseman wearing Georgian national costume yesterday in Tbilisi

Georgia voters flock to polls

FROM BRUCE CLARK IN TBILISI

GEORGIANS turned out yesterday in joyful droves to choose a president to lead their republic towards real independence from Moscow.

There were loud whoops of joy, and a few muffled cries of apprehension, as the prospect grew of an overwhelming victory by the republic's current leader, the controversial man of letters and political firebrand, Zviad Gamsakhurdia. Buildings were decked with Georgian flags and patriotic music sounded from cassette players in the republic of 5.5 million where the symbols of Soviet power have all but vanished from public view.

The Georgian capital, an ancient, profoundly civilised city, was looking its sunlit best as Mr Gamsakhurdia arrived in his new black Mercedes to cast his ballot in a central Tbilisi polling station. The 52-year-old leader, who managed to look presidential even in the days when he was a dissident, graciously acknowledged the cheers of a small crowd.

He reminded them that it was the 63rd anniversary of the day in 1918 when the short-lived independent republic of Georgia declared its existence. It is this republic that the Georgian parliament formally proclaimed on April 9, prompting a fresh round of economic warfare with Moscow and intensified activity by Soviet troops in the violence-plagued region of Ossetia.

Most of the people emerging from the polling stations, gossiping and greeting one another with the single kiss on the cheek that Georgians of both sexes customarily exchange, happily told anyone who would listen that Mr Gamsakhurdia, and only Mr Gamsakhurdia, had the strength to stand up to Moscow. The other five candidates were dismissed as weak or communist stooges. All share Mr Gamsakhurdia's stated opposition to participating in the new Soviet federation that President Gorbachev has pledged to construct.

Mr Gamsakhurdia, scion of a distinguished literary family and translator into Georgian of Shakespeare and Oscar Wilde, has pledged to build up the republic's security forces, privatise the economy and issue a new currency as soon as possible.

● MOSCOW: Margaret Thatcher arrived here at the weekend for a four-day private visit to Moscow, in which she will have talks with President Gorbachev and other Soviet leaders, address the Soviet parliament and visit Lenin-grad (Mary Dejevsky writes).

Mr Gorbachev extended his invitation to Mrs Thatcher during John Major's visit to Moscow in January. The former prime minister is the latest in a series of senior Western visitors to Moscow, including President Mitterrand of France, the Portuguese prime minister, Mario Soares, and the Italian prime minister, Giulio Andreotti.

US cuts air link to nuclear fleet

Washington — For the first time in nearly three decades the US Navy has grounded the 15 aircraft which provide a round-the-clock daily link between the American president and the nation's fleet of nuclear submarines. Instead, the "tamaco" planes are on what the Pentagon calls "interim ground alert" (Martin Fletcher writes).

The order was motivated by budget constraints but made possible by the end of the Cold War and the reduced Soviet threat. The "tamaco" — "take charge and move out" — planes would be used by the president to relay missile launch orders to American nuclear submarines in the event of a nuclear attack on the United States. The aircraft trail miles-long antennae into the oceans to communicate with the submarines.

Instead of having "tamaco" planes permanently in the air, they are now flying random missions off the east and west coasts of the United States, said a navy spokeswoman. There are also land-based communications with the nuclear submarine fleet.

Nato backed

Paris — Nato must remain the cornerstone of US-European military co-operation and Washington would oppose moves by its allies to set up an independent force, although it supported efforts to bolster joint security, Richard Cheney, America's defence secretary, said. (Reuter)

Request denied

Vilnius — The commander of Lithuania's national paramilitary volunteer force, Audrius Butkevicius, has asked for government permission to fire on Soviet soldiers attacking Lithuanian border posts. The request was refused, but tension in the republic and among the guards is rising.

Youths run wild

Paris — About 200 youths rampaged through Mantes-la-Jolie, a commuter town on the outskirts of Paris, after a party at a skating rink got out of hand. They looted a shopping centre, set fire to cars and fought firemen. Riot police fired tear gas and charged the looters. (Reuter)

Rock proposal

Madrid — The Spanish government wants responsibility for guarding Gibraltar to switch to Rota, its Atlantic Coast base near Cadiz, and has suggested to Nato that its forces should replace British air and sea power in defending the Rock. *El Pais*, the country's leading newspaper, reported.

Sting rewarded

Rome — Sting, the rock star, has won the Italian ecologist foundation Cervia Ambiente's annual prize for his contribution to human rights and environmental protection. The organisation also made a special mention of Maria Teresa Rubin de Cervin, who is in charge of Unesco's bureau to safeguard Venice. (AFP)

Giscard memoirs heighten mystery

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN PARIS

THE former French president, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing, has written an autobiography which pundits say is aimed at putting the record straight before the next presidential election. But the revelations have failed to satisfy even the converted.

"These are not exactly memoirs," said Dominique de Montvalon, a journalist who writes for the conservative news magazine *L'Express*, which normally views M Giscard d'Estaing's Union for French Democracy group sympathetically, "but rather a passionate effort to demonstrate that the great of this world have their weaknesses, a body and a soul, that they resemble us. He responds or tries to respond to everything that nourished controversy."

The disclosures in the recently published *The Confrontation* is unlikely to dispel M Giscard d'Estaing's long-standing public image as a slightly arrogant, upper-class figure remote from ordinary French people. M de Montvalon concludes diplomatically that in spite of his revelations, he remains "a mystery".

The candid anecdotes include a confession by the politician, who many French women consider handsome, that while at the Elysée, M Giscard d'Estaing discovered that he was becoming ugly. Power makes people ugly, he concludes. And afterwards he decided never to look at himself in a mirror. *L'Express*

speculated that the objective of such human anecdotes was transparent. "Giscard never lets one forget for a second the future can belong to him."

The former president recently withdrew from the daily infighting of the French parliament to concentrate on European affairs and to prepare for his presidential campaign if he decides to run in 1995 after President Mitterrand retires. A poll published this month showed that M Giscard d'Estaing was the only leading conservative politician who would not certainly be beaten by Michel Rocard, the former prime minister, widely expected to be the key socialist candidate.

In the book, M Giscard d'Estaing also seeks to lay the ghosts of the 1979 scandal over the gift of diamonds to him by Jean-Bedel Bokassa, the then emperor of the Central African Republic. They were of poor quality, he says.

He regrets that he was too liberal at the time and did not follow the advice of some of his aides who recommended that he suppress publication of the article revealing the existence of the diamonds in the satirical newspaper, *Le Canard Enchaîné*, and the daily *Le Monde*.

In another calculated human anecdote, M Giscard d'Estaing claims that after the damaging scandal he was so sick at heart that he was unable to read political journalism for seven years.

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SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS IN PLAIN ENGLISH

Party pleads with widow as Gandhi rites continue

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

THE ashes of Rajiv Gandhi were placed in urns yesterday in readiness for immersion in holy rivers throughout India this week. At the same time the Congress (I) party struggled without success to find a new leader, if only a temporary figure to carry it through the remainder of the general election campaign.

Sonia Gandhi, the former prime minister's widow, continued to come under pressure to take over. Every state unit of the party joined the parliamentary body and the Congress executive committee at the weekend in urging her to succeed her husband. But she showed no signs of reversing her refusal to do so. One official from Gandhi's constituency of Amethi dropped his hat at her feet and knelt in front of her on Saturday, begging her to "save the party". He also asked her to run for election in Amethi. She silently bent down, handed back the cap, and walked away.

A violent dust storm tossed around Gandhi's ashes on the still-smouldering pyre on Saturday night. Security forces formed a human wall to shield it. A bus was also placed in front of the pyre to deflect gales that reached 60mph. Its headlights were switched on after power lines came down, plunging everything into darkness. Corrugated sheets were rushed in, and a makeshift fence was erected. This was still not enough to protect the ashes, so a tarpaulin was pulled over the embers.

Gandhi's son, Rahul, arrived late at night to enquire whether the ashes were safe. He returned, with family friends yesterday morning and collected them in 32 urns. A fierce rainstorm then broke during the *pooja* (prayer ritual), which was performed with the help of the same priest who on Friday had conducted the Vedic rites during the cremation. Gandhi's ashes were returned in a flower-covered vehicle to Teen Murti House, where he had lain in state.

The Nehru succession has

maintained such a powerful grip over Congress (I) that no leaders of stature exist. Gandhi almost routinely arranged for the dismissal of state chief ministers who became too powerful, and frequently reshuffled his cabinet. A measure of the party's desperation is that P. V. Narasimha Rao, an elderly man still recovering from a heart operation, is the front-runner to take over as stopgap leader. Mr Rao has held ministerial posts in the governments of both Gandhi and Indira Gandhi, his mother, and is believed to have indicated that he would not want the job permanently.

The disarray of Congress presents unimaginable political opportunities to the right-wing Bharatiya Janata Party. Its executive committee met at the weekend to reassess strategy, which is now expected to focus more strongly on stability. The party, which heads a Hindu revivalist movement, may also intensify its message of Hindu pride to counter Congress's expected use of the sympathy factor in order to gain votes.

The danger of widespread electoral violence exists, should the BJP play heavily on the Hindu factor. But its pledge of political stability will have a strong appeal, given the fragility of Congress. Even if Congress manages to paper over the cracks in the final three weeks of the election campaign, there could be turmoil afterwards when it chooses a permanent leader. There is the clear possibility of a split, leaving India for the first time without a national party capable of forming a government by itself.

Although the BJP looks certain to do well, Congress is still likely to emerge as the biggest single party if it does not split. Its strategy now is to play down internal divisions and to project the image of Mrs Gandhi across India in the hope of keeping the sympathy factor alive. Whether she likes it or not, Sonia Gandhi is part of the election campaign.



Last respects: a woman lights a candle next to the 32 urns containing the ashes of Rajiv Gandhi at Teen Murti House, the Nehru family museum in Delhi. The urns will be taken to different parts of India today for immersion in holy rivers

Amnesty marks 30 years by opening in Moscow

By DAVID WATTS, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE effectiveness of Amnesty International is symbolised by the opening of an office in Moscow to mark its 30th anniversary. But more than the planting of a beacon in the heart of darkness, the Soviet branch signals an acceptance of the concept of human rights on a scale undreamed of a few years ago.

Without the pathway beaten by Amnesty, the international response to the plight of the Kurds would have been unlikely and the subsequent acceptance of the United Nations' right to intervene against a regime on its own territory would probably have foundered.

But that is not to say that Amnesty's standards — modelled on those of the United Nations — are accepted universally. Evidence of increased disappearances and extra-judicial execution point to governments doing away with the embarrassment of political prisoners. Disappearances that seemed to be a largely Latin American phenomenon now plague the Middle East. Eastern Europe, once a preoccupation of the nascent organisation, shows a more humane face but China and Burma continue to have a poor human rights record. When it started in cramped

and dingy offices with a budget equivalent to a modest London salary, Amnesty was accused of a softness towards fashionable left-wing regimes and relentless attention to Soviet political detainees. Amnesty can now claim denunciation in equal measure from all elements of the political spectrum.

But the old Amnesty had a pioneering earnestness that



The shah: report led to withdrawal of US support

has changed to something approaching self-righteousness as its influence has grown. Sandalled supplicants do not make dictators shake, but arrogance can be equally dangerous. The £27,000 budget of the

British operation in 1974 has grown to £10-12 million and the 1,000 members are expected to reach 100,000 this year across more than 1,000 groups. The budget of the American affiliate dwarfs that — small wonder that the French tried to lure the secretariat to Paris.

Amnesty has adopted 42,000 prisoners of conscience of whom 38,000 have had their files closed. Evidence of the effectiveness of Amnesty's letter and cable campaigns has come from former detainees. The Chinese remain impervious. Despite three million letters and telegrams seeking the release of those detained after the Tiananmen Square killings, Peking's response has been minimal.

Perhaps the most graphic illustration of the organisation changing perceptions was in the mid-1970s when its reporting of Savak secret service torture methods under the Shah of Iran contributed to the atmosphere in which President Carter eventually withdrew American support. The switch was so unexpected for the KGB that the Tehran residency became convinced that Ayatollah Khomeini was an American stooge.

Leading article, page 15

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America learns to love pit bulls

Calls to ban pit bull terriers and use of the word "pet" are seen as offensive to animal sensitivities, Charles Bremner reports from New York

THE fuss in Britain about pit bulls sounds a little quaint to Americans. They too underwent pit bull fever a few years ago but that was before the enlightenment. They now realise that they were afflicted by dogism, the canine branch of "speciesism", or discrimination against "non-human animals".

Although not technically a minority, animals have been incorporated into the broad diversity movement sweeping the university world which seeks to ensure respect for the rights of the oppressed. Under codes promoted by the animal rights movement, for example, you

He called me a dog.



are no longer allowed to use the loaded word "pet". "Companion animal" is the correct term.

Mockery may land you in trouble, as Professor Roderick Nash of the University of California at Santa Barbara found out. He noted the "pet" controversy during a lecture and wondered whether the nude centrefolds in *Penthouse* magazine should be renamed and 15 women students reported him for sexual harassment.

Awareness of animal sensitivities came just in time to save the lives of many an American pit bull. Amid the hysteria about maulings in the late 1980s, experts began

speaking up for the beast. "The pit bull terrier is over-represented among biting animals," Tufts University of Massachusetts concluded after its Centre for Animals ran a Pit Bull Workshop.

According to Dr Franklin Loew, the dean of veterinary medicine at Tufts and a leading civil rights advocate for dogs, bans on pit bulls amount to "canine racism". The university recalled its position last week in a statement headed: "Canine Racism: Banning Pit Bull Terriers in England."

Dr Loew's arguments were influential, along with those of the lawyers of the American Kennel Club, and the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals when New York reconsidered a 1989 ban on any pit bulls entering the city. The law also required the tattooing and registration of existing animals and prohibited breeding. Dr Loew pointed out that the third leading category of biter in New York after dogs and cats was not rats, as believed, but human animals, as the rights movement calls them.

The state supreme court pronounced the New York law to be discriminatory and last month the city scrapped it in favour of tougher sanctions against the owners of non-human animals found guilty of committing a violent act.

The decision satisfied the dog activists as politically correct. This year pit bulls have been reported biting fewer New Yorkers than German shepherds and mongrels and slightly ahead of chihuahuas. Pit bulls are being given similar reprieves across the country.

Dogs defended, page 20

America plays role of arbiter as fear and suspicion stalk streets of Addis Ababa

US to give rebels peace ultimatum at secret London talks

By MICHAEL EVANS IN LONDON AND ANDREW LYCETT IN NAIROBI

ETHIOPIAN rebel forces will be told today by Washington, during secret meetings in London, that they have a "last chance" to reach an agreement on the country's future. The American-sponsored peace talks will officially open tomorrow at a venue that will remain secret until after the session has begun.

The American delegation, led by Herman Cohen, the assistant secretary of state for African affairs, wants to keep the main participants away from the glare of publicity for as long as possible. In bilateral sessions today with the individual rebel leaders, Mr Cohen is expected to make it clear that it is time for serious negotiations. The same message will be given to Tefaye Dinka, the Ethiopian prime minister, who will be taking part in the roundtable talks tomorrow.

"We will know in a day or so whether they are serious about the talks," one American diplomatic source said. "What we do not want is any time-wasting, with days spent dealing with procedural matters. Previous attempts to get talks going have got nowhere. So this is the last chance for negotiations under international auspices."

The tough warning comes after significant advances at

the weekend by rebel forces in Ethiopia. Both Asmara, the capital of the northern province of Eritrea, and Asaba, the last remaining port in government hands and the country's economic lifeline to the Red Sea, have fallen to the rebels.

Mr Cohen, who flew into London last night, has a reputation as a tough negotiator. "We do not expect to resolve all problems but want a framework to be agreed," the American source said.

The leaders representing the three rebel forces in London will be Issayas Afewerki, of the Eritrean People's Liberation Front; Meles Zenawi of the Tigrayan-dominated Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front; and Yohannes Lata, of the Oromo Liberation Front, which operates in southwest Ethiopia.

The revolutionary democratic front, founded in 1989, is a loose coalition of four rebel groups opposed to the Addis Ababa government. They are the Tigray People's Liberation Front and three much smaller groups, the Ethiopian People's Democratic Movement, the Ethiopian Democratic Officers Revolutionary Movement and the Oromo People's Democratic Organisation, a breakaway from the Oromo Liberation Front.

But there is no hiding that the Tigrean-dominated revolutionary democratic front was as recently as last year publicly bailing the achievements of Enver Hoxha, the late Albanian dictator, and is viewed in some quarters as a more attractive name for what is still a staunch marxist organisation.

The Eritrean front was initially Christian-dominated but now represents both the Christian and Muslim communities in Eritrea. Its first secretary general, Ramadan Mohammed, was a Muslim, and his successor, Mr Afewerki, is a Christian. In the late 1970s the Eritrean front started assisting the then insignificant Tigray People's Liberation Front in its struggle for greater autonomy for Tigray. The Tigray faction returned the favour by assisting the Eritrean front to defeat the Eritrean Liberation Front (ELF), which largely represented the Muslims of Eritrea, in a bloody civil war in Eritrea in 1981.

But relations between the two nominally marxist groups deteriorated in the mid-1980s as the Eritrean front accused the Tigray faction of being arrogant and opportunistic. There were armed clashes between the two groups.

Two years ago, when Addis Ababa's control of Eritrea was reduced only to an enclave around Asmara and the two essential ports of Massawa and Asaba, the government agreed to talks with the Eritrean front. But Mengistu, the then president who fled last week to exile in Zimbabwe, refused to agree to the Eritrean front's basic demand: a referendum in which Eritreans be allowed to vote on various political options for the future, including independence.

Mengistu justifiably feared that Eritreans would opt for independence. With the government stalling, the Eritrean front walked out of the talks.

Since then most of the running has been made by the revolutionary democratic front. Although the Eritrean front has broadly supported the revolutionary faction and applauded its successes, the two groups have different goals: the former wants independence while the latter is committed to a "democratic people's government".

In terms of the peace talks, the revolutionary faction is ready to discuss the formation of a government of national unity with Ethiopia's caretaker regime. But the Eritrean front remains committed to a referendum, the outcome of which is in no doubt.

Now that the Eritrean front has established its hold throughout Eritrea, its only reason for participating in today's peace talks is to legitimise its independence. With the fall of Asaba, all food entering Ethiopia, including Tigray, has to come through its territory.



Clutching at hope: an Ethiopian woman praying for peace during a church service in Addis Ababa as rebels advance on the capital

Citizens pray for peace as rebels tighten their grip on the capital

Sam Kiley reports on the mood in Addis Ababa as residents await the arrival of rebel troops, who are fast closing in on a city where tensions run high

TUCKED behind the Menelik palace, now occupied by the acting president of Ethiopia, General Tefaye Gibre Kidan, St Gabriel's Church was packed with his elite guard praying for peace yesterday.

The guards, some of whom fled their posts as rebel forces tightened their grip on the capital, like most residents here only show their anxiety while at prayer. Throughout the city, churches have been packed at services for peace all week as the rebel forces cut through government troops to the north, south and west.

Those unable to attend services at the Selassie cathedral, built by the last emperor, Haile Selassie, who was deposed in a coup in 1974, waited outside and pressed their hands against the walls as they begged for an end to the civil war which has wracked the country for three decades.

Elsewhere in the city, life appears remarkably normal as residents wait for the outcome of talks between representatives of the rebel forces, the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front and General Tefaye's representatives in London tomorrow.

Although Addis Ababa's bazaar was closed for prayer yesterday, last week it remained a vibrant snub to the marxist policies of the former president, Mengistu Haile Mariam, who fled the country last week. While free trade has been curtailed in most of the country, other than the former president's monopoly on the export of a mild narcotic drug *khat*, one can still buy anything in the market from an AK-47 assault rifle to frankincense and myrrh.

Forces of the Tigray People's Liberation Front are less than nine miles from the city centre, but most services including water, power, transport and telephones are intact. And while there is a curfew between 9pm and 5am, no blackout has been imposed.

Unused to public displays of political conviction after 14 years of terror at the hands of President Mengistu, 300 people nevertheless marched through the city centre calling for peace while looking over their shoulders for government spies. "We just want good talks on Tuesday," said a former student at a service yesterday.

Gunfire has been a nightly feature in the capital and has

intensified. Over the weekend light skirmishes involving small arms fire and anti-aircraft cannon broke out at night around the presidential palace between what observers believe were presidential guards and a rebel reconnaissance patrol.

People say, half in jest, that the gunfire comes from worried residents testing the weapons they have bought from soldiers pouring into the city to escape the rebel onslaught. It is the defeated soldiers that locals and Western embassies fear most. They have not been paid for months, many have walked hundreds of miles to the capital and have not eaten for days. "There is nothing so dangerous as a defeated army," said a Western diplomat. "The real worry is a breakdown of law and order caused by government soldiers," he said.

The beleaguered government, in disarray after two generals — both members of the Dergue that seized power in 1974 — who were fleeing south were shot by loyal soldiers, and a politician member was captured by a citizens' militia, is aware of the danger posed by its men. Anarchy would precipitate a rebel invasion so, helped by the small number of Soviet military advisers left in Addis

Ababa, returning soldiers have been rounded up by military police. They have been shipped to camps in the east and southwest: the only part of the country still supporting the government.

In marked contrast to the fear and suspicion with which civilians treat government soldiers those in rebel-held areas enjoy good relations with the Woyane, as the guerrilla fighters are known. As the air base of Debre Zeyit fell yesterday, people were walking towards the garrison town away from the capital.

But as the uncertainty continues, Western embassies and the United Nations are taking no chances. The UN will evacuate all non-essential staff today, while the Germans, French and Italians have already evacuated most of their nationals. The British and American embassies have advised citizens to leave and scaled down their diplomatic staff.

Both missions have brought in extra military guards. At least four members of the Special Air Services now guard the British compound, while a small force of Green Berets were reported to have flown in to protect the US embassy. "People are carrying on as normal because they don't know what else to do. But if tomorrow's peace talks break down it could get very ugly here," said a European diplomat. "The million-dollar question is what does the government have to offer at the London talks other than themselves? Frankly, they probably only have a day to avoid a rebel coup d'état and, or chaos in the city."

Falashas embark on a new lifestyle

From RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

FOR some of the newly-arrived Ethiopian Jews in Jerusalem the process of assimilation into Israeli society began in a hotel car park yesterday when they discarded the village robes of rural life far away in favour of Israeli hand-me-downs.

A young mother dressed in white robes with a baby strapped to her back clutched a man's leather shoe and searched through the bundles of secondhand clothes for the other half of the pair. A teenage girl hobbled in, outstretched, outdated high-heeled boots.

Many of the young Falashas were already learning Hebrew nursery rhymes inside the hotel lobby and being showered with gifts and sweets by well-wishers who, like most Israelis, have been caught up in the general emotion and pride in the aftermath of Operation Solomon which brought 15,000 Jews to Israel. President Chaim Herzog said: "Before our eyes we witnessed the loftiest mission of Zionism... the finest forces were harnessed for this daring operation."

Zeev Schwartzberg, a Jewish Agency official who had been in Addis Ababa for the past two months as part of a secret team organising the airlift, yesterday recounted how lists had been prepared weeks in advance of all those approved for emigration to Israel. When the order to start was received on Friday morning 150 Falasha volunteers went out into the city to alert the Jews to prepare to leave.

"It all went smoothly, although at the end we had some people who tried to get on the flights even though we did not know if they were Jewish or simply wanted to escape," he said, adding that some made their way on to the planes.

Some Ethiopian Jews were left behind, not only the several hundred in remote areas under rebel control, but others in the capital who missed their flight or could not be found on the day. "We had the case of one boy who had gone to the market. His parents came to the airport and waited for him, while we sent people to try and find him. But in the end they had to leave without their son," said Mr Schwartzberg.

It emerged over the weekend that \$35 million (£20 million) was paid to secure the Falashas release. "It was a last minute pay-off," said Colonel Raanan Gissin, of the Israel Defence Force. "There was no other way."

The man credited with the successful completion of the operation was Uri Lubrani, a senior adviser to Yitzhak Shamir, the prime minister.

The wanderers, page 14

Soldiers shelter across border

From KHALED HAIDAR IN DJIBOUTI

AT LEAST 3,000 Ethiopian soldiers and civilians crossed the border into Djibouti yesterday to seek refuge from the civil war raging in their homeland. Bearing AK-47 assault rifles, rocket launchers and machine-guns, the soldiers were fleeing Ethiopia's Red Sea port of Assab, taken by rebels on Saturday.

The refugees jumped the border at Ras Doumeira and grouped near Moloubé, 210 miles north of Djibouti, the capital, it was reported. A journalist aboard a French air force Transal flying over the region said the rebels brought 10 tanks with them.

The report gave further evidence of the breakdown of the Ethiopian army since President Mengistu fled the country on Tuesday amid big advances by Tigrean and Eritrean rebels. The insurgents are reported to be encircling Addis Ababa, the capital.

A report earlier yesterday said that three Ethiopian air force officers on Saturday night hijacked a Soviet-made Antonov 12 military transport plane with 53 people aboard, soon after it took off from Debre Zeyit air base near Addis Ababa for Dire Dawa, 125 miles away. They apparently forced it to land in Djibouti. All those aboard were members of the Ethiopian air force, except for one serviceman's wife, it said.

The hijackers, including the chief of flight security, surrendered without harming

the passengers or the seven-man crew. They apparently feared that the Dire Dawa air base would not be a sure haven, the report said. Ethiopia's air force command had ordered several of its aircraft to be moved to other bases and even other countries to escape certain destruction should they fall into rebel hands, the report added.

Djibouti, on the horn of Africa, is a former French colony. France maintains air and naval forces plus Foreign Legion troops there under a friendship treaty.

More than 700 Ethiopian government soldiers were killed and the army's 28th division was annihilated in an attack by forces of the Eritrean People's Revolutionary Democratic Front and the Oromo Liberation Front, in a battle for the eastern town of Dembi Dolo, the Voice of Oromo Liberation radio, monitored by the BBC in London, said yesterday. Dembi Dolo was liberated, it said.

"Heavy losses were inflicted on the enemy and their remaining soldiers were dispersed... A total of 1,396 soldiers were put out of action, of whom 743 were killed and 653 were wounded, and 64 were captured," the radio said. Meanwhile, Tefaye Dinka, the Ethiopian foreign minister, left for Nigeria to attend a meeting of foreign ministers of the Organisation of African Unity, Ethiopian radio reported. (AFP)

Bush scored success with airlift

From MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

BOGGED down in northern Iraq, frustrated in its search for a Middle East peace settlement, the Bush administration nevertheless claimed a substantial foreign policy success last week. It made possible the airlift of 15,000 Falasha Jews from Ethiopia to Israel, and hopes to cap that achievement by acting as "midwife" to a new Ethiopian government acceptable to all factions during talks opening in London today.

Moscow having abandoned Ethiopia, Washington has now assumed direct responsibility for a strategically important country near the Red Sea's mouth. Officials are concerned about famine in Ethiopia, and are aware of the horrors perpetrated after rebel victories in Mogadishu, Liberia, and Mogadishu, in Somalia. They have adopted a hands-on stance to try to ensure what the State Department calls a "soft landing" for the nation.

Mr Bush has long been interested in the fate of the Falashas, playing an important behind-the-scenes role when he was vice-president in Israel's airlift of Ethiopian Jews from Sudan in 1984-85. Encouraged by American Jewish organisations, he began quietly working a month ago to secure the Falashas release, sending former senator Rudy Boschwitz, of Minnesota, as an emissary to then President Mengistu on April 26-27 and following that up with direct correspondence. But Lieutenant-Colonel



Rebel triumph: jubilant fighters from the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front after seizing an air force plane at Debre Zeit, near Addis Ababa

Meles saw the Falashas as too valuable a bargaining chip to let them go. The breakthrough came when Mr Bush sent another letter last Tuesday, the day the dictator fled the country. The letter was understood to have linked American support for a ceasefire and peace conference to the Falashas' release. Tefaye Gibre Kidan, the acting head of state, accepted this Israel's payment of \$35 million (£20 million) to the Ethiopian authorities to facilitate the operation must have made his decision easier.

Using its influence with the rebels, Washington persuaded them not to attack Addis Ababa or the capital's airport while the two-day evacuation was in progress. It appeared to have had less success in persuading them to observe a general ceasefire.

David Levy, the Israeli foreign minister, sent James Baker, the US Secretary of State, a letter at the weekend saying Washington "played a crucial and decisive role" in bringing about the airlift. Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli prime minister, telephoned Mr Bush on Friday to thank him personally. Mr Bush told Mr Shamir that he did not want the Falashas settled in

the occupied territories. When Herman Cohen, the US assistant secretary of state for Africa, calls the London peace meeting to order today he will have around the table two rebel groups that have espoused marxism and one, the Eritrean People's Liberation Front, that wants independence for the northern part of Ethiopia. The three rebel groups have never before sat down together to consider their country's future. For the United States, the task of being what a senior State Department official has called "midwife to a new Ethiopian government" is formidable.

Protesters demand ceasefire

MORE than 1,000 demonstrators are expected to gather at the central London hotel where talks are due to start tomorrow to end Ethiopia's 30-year civil war. The protesters plan to call for an immediate ceasefire and democratic reforms in their homeland.

They come from among the 100,000 Ethiopians resident in Britain. The organiser of the vigil, Dr Mammo Muchie, a senior lecturer at Middlesex Polytechnic, said: "It is difficult to predict what success there will be. But a ceasefire and a framework for democracy would be brilliant."

Aid agencies said a successful outcome to the talks could remove obstacles preventing supplies from reaching millions threatened by famine. While Britain is not directly involved in the talks beyond offering "administrative facilities", the American organisers have sought to dampen speculation by refusing to announce the venue.

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Zulu king calls for end to township violence

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE king of the Zulus, addressing a huge rally of spear-waving followers, yesterday demanded an unequivocal apology from the African National Congress for attacking and insulting his tribesmen and called for an end to violence in the black townships. "He who attacks the Zulu nation attacks me," he said.

His demand followed his chilling warning at the government-sponsored peace summit in Pretoria that "if the Zulu leadership issued the commands to set the Zulu nation at war against any

organisation, that organisation would not last for long". King Goodwill Zwelithini, clad in leopard skins and monkey tails and carrying the traditional Zulu shield and assegai, was addressing a crowd of 70,000 in a soccer stadium on the border of Soweto, near Johannesburg.

The rally was billed as a gathering of the Zulu nation and not an Inkatha rally.

Police reported four more apparently political murders in the black township, bringing the total since Friday night to 17. Soweto residents claimed they were attacked by Zulu-speaking men wearing red handbands, the unofficial Inkatha headgear.

Yesterday scores of buses bringing Zulus to the rally from their KwaZulu homeland and other townships were escorted by police into the soccer stadium. Hundreds more openly defied the government's ban on the public display of "cultural" weapons in unrest areas by marching from their Soweto hostels to the stadium. The king told the crowd that banning the carrying of cultural weapons was "an insult to my manhood. It is an insult to the manhood of every Zulu man." It was not cultural weapons but "AK47 bullets which rip through life to kill that is responsible for death," he said.

However, he tempered his rhetoric with a call for an end to carnage, although again with a sharp aimed at the ANC. He said: "Let the politics of intimidation, which supports mass action, strikes, stayaways and boycotts, end. Let people be free from coercion."

The two-day government-sponsored summit on violence in Pretoria ended on Saturday with a dramatic gesture by President de Klerk. He held up his left hand and invited all parties to take it in the search for peace.

He pledged to take personal responsibility in trying to get all those not represented at the summit — by inference the ANC in particular — involved. The Pretoria meeting, he insisted, had not been a "ganging up of those present against those not present". He said: "On the contrary, it has laid a foundation for fully representative co-operation."

President de Klerk's olive branch gesture became necessary after both he and the Inkatha Freedom party, the ANC's main rivals, rejected proposals for a follow-up summit organised by the Rustenburg group of churches. The South African Council of Churches, which like the ANC boycotted the summit, is a key constituent of the Rustenburg group, which takes its name from an important reconciliation meeting held in the western Transvaal town last year.

One Inkatha delegate coldly described the churches "as very much part of the problem". Today church leaders representing the Rustenburg group will meet in Johannesburg to launch a new peace bid.



Gun control: a policeman confronts one of the hundreds of people protesting against the confiscation of alcohol at the Zulu rally in Soweto yesterday

Roh revamps cabinet amid growing unrest

FROM REUTERS IN SEOUL

PRESIDENT Roh of South Korea reshuffled his cabinet yesterday, replacing four ministers to try to restore public confidence in the government. Among the changes, which follow a month of political uncertainty marked by growing public unrest, Mr Roh appointed the former prosecutor-general, Kim Ki-choon, aged 51, as justice minister.

Rhee Yong-man, head of the Office of Bank Supervision and Examination, was made finance minister, while the energy and health ministers were also replaced. Mr Roh announced the changes after talks yesterday with Chung Won-shik, the prime minister.

"President Roh stressed that the government must make all-out efforts to firmly establish legal order and resolve social and economic problems while consolidating the basis for stability," a spokesman said in a televised statement.

But critics of the government immediately complained that the shake-up was intended to continue headline policies against opponents.

"The cabinet reshuffle goes against the people's wishes for an end to repressive security-oriented policies. It is clear that the president plans to strengthen these policies," a spokesman at the main opposition New Democratic party said.

Yesterday's appointments came hard on the heels of President Roh's announcement that Mr Chung, aged 62, a conservative teacher, was to be prime minister. He is best remembered for outlawing the teachers' union in 1989, during his time as education minister, and dissidents and opposition leaders have been quick to condemn that appointment.

President Roh is counting on the cabinet changes and last Thursday's amnesty of 258 political prisoners to end weeks of demonstrations sparked by the fatal police beating of a university student on April 26. But thousands joined a Seoul rally yesterday, while the death on Saturday of another protester as police charged demonstrators has made it unlikely that President Roh's strategy will succeed.

Liberals face defeat in Sydney

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

THE New South Wales right-wing Liberal government faces possible defeat after an unexpected show of support for the opposition Labour party in the state election at the weekend.

Defying all the predictions, voters expressed dissatisfaction with a combination of severe public spending cuts and continuing high taxes in Australia's only Liberal-run state. Their reaction has stunned politicians, pollsters and commentators who expected a landslide victory for the government of the Liberal premier, Nick Greiner.

Mr Greiner was trying yesterday to win support from independent MPs whom his party had called irrelevant the day before. He is now being criticised for running an arrogant "presidential" campaign and for believing his own publicity.

A swing to Labour has given the two main parties 47 seats each, with one seat still undecided last night. Four independent MPs could end up holding the balance of power in a hung parliament.

More die in Dhaka flooding

Dhaka — At least 120 were killed as homes and rice fields were flooded in northeastern Bangladesh at the weekend, forcing people to perch on roofs and climb up trees to await rescue (Ahmed Fazi writes).

Heavy rains pounded the tea-growing areas of Sylhet, Habiganj and Maulvi-Bazar, and about 120 people were estimated killed, with another 700,000 affected by the flooding. More than 50 people died in Sylhet, the worst-affected region, the Bangladesh news agency said. Road and rail links with Dhaka, the capital, were disrupted after a bridge near the town of Kulaura collapsed on Friday.

About 20,000 people sheltered in flood relief centres at the weekend after the Mann, Kushiara and Dholai rivers burst their banks.

Ties improve

Papeete — A New Zealand warship entered French Polynesian waters for the first time in 12 years in a sign of improved relations between New Zealand and France. Ties were soured by the bombing of the Greenpeace flagship Rainbow Warrior in Auckland in 1985, and French nuclear testing in the Pacific. (Reuters)

Editor held

Dhaka — Kazi Shabed Ahmed, chief editor of *Ajker Kago*, a Bengali daily, and two colleagues have been arrested for reporting an alleged corruption of Saifur Rahman, the Bangladesh finance minister. Mr Rahman has filed a libel suit denying the allegations.

Science city

Sydney — A futuristic science city, Multi Function Polis, an Australian-Japanese project which would focus on expanding the Asia-Pacific region and be an environmentally sensitive centre for living, learning and working in the 21st century, should be set up in South Australia, a feasibility study showed. (Reuters)

Kurds storm Iraq police station

FROM MARK HENRICH IN DAHUK

ANGRY Kurds chanting "No, No Saddam: Yes, Yes, Bush" stormed an Iraqi police station in Dahuk after the American-led allies extended a security zone to incorporate the provincial town. Young Kurds swarmed into the streets and surrounded two American military lorries to demonstrate support for the allied presence in northern Iraq. "We want Saddam's police out of Dahuk," said an engineer, aged 28, who took part in the attack on Saturday. "There are still many plainclothes security agents watching over us and we are very angry."

The attack on the police station was the third since American and Western troops moved into northern Iraq from Turkey on April 20. One Iraqi policeman was killed and four were wounded in a grenade attack on April 25. On May 13, about 500 Kurds stormed a police station in Zakho and beat up a man whom they suspected was a spy from Baghdad.

The Kurds, some wielding sharpened iron bars, smashed into the single-storey police building and chased the police into a field where they beat them with fists and bars. The mob released the policemen and then crowded around two

camouflaged American lorries. A bewildered American officer shook hands with Kurds who climbed up on to the cab in spontaneous American fervour. Demonstrators burnt an Iraqi flag. Several bloodied policemen were hustled away, apparently not seriously injured.

Coalition military police and United Nations security guards in the town were nowhere to be seen. "We resent that none of the police here are Kurds yet. They're all still Saddam's security agents sent in from the outside. They hate us all," said one demonstrator. "We want a safe, peaceful home here. We need the Americans," said another.

Coalition forces plan to stay in Dahuk for 21 days, running refugee reception centres, clearing the town of war rubble and unexploded ammunition and restoring essential electricity, water, sanitation and medical services. But many Kurds in the town are anxious for the allies to remain.

A small allied advance party entered Dahuk on Friday after heavily-armed Iraqi troops and security police withdrew to about 13 miles south of the town a few days ago. The full contingent of 173 troops arrived on Saturday. (Reuters)

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Taking the sting out of the tail

The government has banned breeders from docking dogs' tails. But is the practice more than cosmetic?

The government's decision to outlaw the docking of dogs' tails by anyone other than veterinary surgeons is expected to bring about the end of a practice which has caused passionate controversy among dog breeders and experts for centuries.

According to the zoologist and anthropologist Desmond Morris, tail-docking dates from Roman times, when the tails of 40-day-old puppies were bitten off in the "completely spurious" belief that this would protect the animals from rabies. Later it was thought that working dogs were better off with a short stump of a tail.

These days, the purpose of docking by breeders is primarily cosmetic — to conform to show standards. It affects more than 40 breeds, including weimaraners, German short-haired pointers, boxers, dobermans, corgis, old English sheepdogs (also known as bobtails), rottweilers and many spaniels and terriers.

The tails are docked — without anaesthetics, says Dr Morris, who abhors the practice — either by cutting with a small bone cutter or sharp scissors when the puppy is three or four days old, or by means of an elastic band, which stops the supply of blood causing the tail to rot and drop off after a few weeks.

When the Kennel Club introduced a ban on ear-cropping in 1889 — still common overseas, especially for boxers — it was expected that a ban on tail-docking would follow. According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), the docking ban was proposed on the grounds "that breeders were having enough problems adjusting to the new (that is, natural) ears. Since then more breeds have been introduced with docked tails, and breeders' resistance to any ban has gradually increased." The RSPCA has been campaigning for years to have docking made illegal, and the

Kennel Club recently decided to make docking voluntary. Some argue that it protects the tails of working dogs from becoming injured. Barbara Rigby, the secretary of the German Shorthaired Pointer Association, says: "Our dogs are working gun-dogs. They go into very thick cover and their tails can become lacerated."

Another German short-haired pointer breeder, Fio Roberts, is less convinced. "At the moment the dogs are fairly unmanageable without docked tails, but if none of them was docked that would presumably change," says Mrs Roberts, who was showing three dogs at the Bath championships at the weekend. "Everybody says it doesn't hurt the dogs, but I think it does."

Many breeders claim docking is entirely painless. "Any animal born with its eyes closed doesn't have its nervous system fully developed for about 14 days," says Larry Elsdon, the chairman of the Council for Docked Breeds, formed about four years ago to fight the proposed legislation.

Mr Elsdon, a former rottweiler breeder, regards the new law, which is due to come into effect in July 1993, as a "compromise solution." It started off with a brick wall where the Council of Europe said "you will be docking."

We fought it on the grounds that this is an integral part of a number of breeds, and if you stick a tail on, it would change the whole outline of the dog. Now the question is whether the vets will do it."

The Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons already states in its guide to professional conduct that "to dock the tail of a dog for non-therapeutic purposes amounts to an unjustified mutilation."

Only the fact that "lay persons" have been legally able to dock dogs' tails has prevented the college from forbidding its members to do so.

ARCHIE NORTH



On show: Lakeland terrier, one of 40 breeds routinely docked

People reveal much in the way they wait. Sally Brompton on the culture of queuing

How to keep a country in line

Queuing has become Britain's number one bank holiday activity. Whatever fun-packed outing you choose, the chances are that you will have to queue.

While for some queuing is an essential evil, others regard it as an integral part of the day's enjoyment.

"It's the Battle of Britain mentality," Dr Peter Collett, a research psychologist, says. "It's something to do with the fact that the British find it very hard to talk to strangers. Queues legitimise conversation between strangers."

That fact alone will strike horror into the hearts of those who regard a queue as a means rather than an end, who travel solely in order to arrive. They will go to any lengths to avoid what one self-sufficient queue expert describes as "the socks-and-sandals lonely hearts' club paradise culture."

Dr Collett, a specialist in the study of social behaviour at Oxford University, recommends "looking as though you're slightly barmy, looking straight ahead or studying something to which other people don't have access, such as a book."

Such antisocial techniques are not for the die-hards of British herd activity, the zealots who will start a queue at midnight to get into a new DIY store (as some of the 2,500 did at the opening of the B&Q store in Glasgow, then queuing again to get out of the car-park, or those who will queue for more than an hour for a hamburger at the Hard Rock Café in Old Park Lane in London. Here the queue is regarded as part of the meal.

The biggest queue yet is expected on June 11 when the café celebrates its twentieth anniversary by serving meals at 1971 prices.

Other British queuing traditions have achieved a significance almost as intense as the events they precede. An 82-year-old tennis fan, when offered a member's ticket to Wimbledon, turned it down because she preferred the companionship in the queue.

Regular Albert Hall Promenaders, such as Sue Brady, a medical school librarian, adhere to their own strict rules of etiquette. "We can tell the pushers," Miss Brady says, listing the three "classic" queue jumpers: the ones who join their friend at the front just before the doors open; the I-don't-understand-the-language expatriates; and the "blatant pushers."

Regulars are the worst in this last category, Miss Brady says; "they don't queue for anything."

Presumably these are west Germans, for the east German, brought up in the queue culture produced by a socialist economy, is the true exponent of how to wait. On home territory the "Ossi", or east German, ambles into line, greets the person in front and extracts from the inevitable flowered shopping bag a sausage, sweets, a bottle of beer and a newspaper, all of which are shared with his fellows in front and behind.

In these days of post-unity plenty, queuing continues, but now at banks. Customers gather at 5am outside the prebates that are the big banks' temporary premises. Join at nine and you will be lucky to have reached the counter by 3pm, so it is back to the shared sweets and jokes. (The one about the Leipzig man who tried to rob a bank and later told police that he had got fed up queuing to withdraw money is particularly popular, and true.)

It does everywhere in the world. West and east Germans are unified in suffering on bank holidays, of which Germans celebrate three in May. The city dwellers of Berlin head to see their western relatives, and the relatives, trying to avoid an overdose of contact with their eastern loved ones, head for Berlin. Instead of gesticulating across the concrete and barbed wire, they can now wave to each other from their respective sides of the road as they sit in the ten-mile tailbacks common at the old border.

During the Whitsun holiday, several motorists reported that they had spent the day driving from Berlin to the old border and then turning round to be home in time for bed.



The waiting game: would-be customers at the opening of a north London store. At some events, queuing is regarded as part of the fun

West Germans labour under the erroneous view that a high economic growth rate should free mankind from the slightest inconvenience, and regard the queue as an insult. When they must join one (for bureaucratic affairs rather than shopping), they slope sullenly into line. By the time the victim reaches the counter, he is in a state of furious frustration, sweating, aggressive and a candidate for ownership of a measure-it-yourself blood pressure device which, unsurprisingly, sells better in west Germany than

While the traffic queue may be the bane of the German and the British bank holiday, the Japanese find it life-enhancing. When they are driving back into Tokyo after a weekend away, the queue can be as long as six hours, sometimes more. But young couples do not mind the crawl. Unable to afford their own apartments, many of them live with their parents until they are quite old. Sitting in a traffic jam on the motorway back into Tokyo is a rare opportunity to be by themselves.

The Japanese will wait patiently for almost anything. They queue for a space under a cherry tree when the blossom is about to fall. There is a tradition of holding parties under the falling blossom, with everyone singing and drinking as they compare the fleeting beauty of the short-lived blossom to the fleeting quality of life.

But the most serious queuing in Japan takes place in Disneyland, just outside Tokyo, on just about every day of the year. The crowds are so thick that every ride requires a wait of two or three hours. Naturally, public holidays turn into a festival of queuing. There is a rash of bank holidays in early May that shuts Japan down for a week, christened Golden Week. Anyone who has not made and booked travel plans by, say, August of the previous year, has to join the long queue for cancellations.

Etiquette, self-discipline and overpopulation have made the Japanese the world's most diligent queuers, but the champions of the orderly queue are the Americans. Rapid service as a way of life has allowed the Americans to spend less of their lives in queues than any other race.

A number of American gifts to the world were invented to cut "lines", as queues are called there. Among

these are the fast-food restaurant, the automatic teller machines in banks, and the drive-in — banks, food stops and churches. Several New York banks promise to give you a \$5 bill on the spot if you are forced to wait more than seven minutes for a cashier. Some restaurants offer you the meal free if you wait more than 15 minutes.

The American business of competitive entry to nightclubs has really passed with the 1980s, except in Los Angeles. Steve Martin's new film *L.A. Story*, which has just

learned to live with lining up despite the fact that queuing comes hard to their Latin instincts, as their own barmen and waiters readily agree. However, on holidays and high days, particularly those involving food, such as the annual July 14 garden party at the Elysée palace, civility may disappear. Watching bemuddled generals and senior civil servants elbowing aside the wives of foreign diplomats in the Elysée gardens in frantic haste to reach the oysters and champagne lest they run out is not a pretty sight.

The most orderly Parisian queuers are probably those on Sunday mornings outside the bakery. Perhaps it is an ingrained memory left from the siege of Paris during the Paris Commune, when Parisians were forced to eat dogs, rats and even zoo animals, that inspires such respect for bread.

The French do not regard the continental sport of queue-jumping with the same respect as, for example, their Italian neighbours. A danger spot for queue-jumping in Paris is outside cinemas along the Champs Elysées or on the bustling Boulevard des Italiens, but a sharp, polite reprimand usually instils a sense of Napoleonic discipline in the offender.

Queue-jumping is not a problem at Thorpe Park, the Surrey theme park, where customers are channelled through fixed queue lines and kept amused by Crazy Chris (the conjuror) and a traditional Dixieland jazz band, which is transformed into a German oompah band after lunch. "I would take it as quite an insult if I saw someone queueing in one of our queues," says Colin Dawson, the director. "There's far too much going on."

Additional reporting by Charles Bremner, Joe Joseph, Anne McElroy and John Phillips

The Japanese will queue for a space under a cherry tree when the blossom is about to fall

opened in London, mocks such institutions. One club in the film sports a computer-video system that spots would-be entrants and ranks them electronically according to their jobs, latest deals and contacts.

Although the New York Hard Rock Café and one or two other New York diners have regular queues, they are an exception. A New Yorker, despite the fact that this is the world's most constantly rushing city, will often tolerate queues to an extent that would drive out-of-towners mad. The reason is the general density of the city, plus a more pedestrian-orientated mentality than in the car-driven American culture at large.

Similarly, most Parisians have

By the time the west German reaches the counter, he is in a state of furious frustration

THE Countryside Commission in Scotland had no great difficulty with the concept of moving Hare's Howe of Ironside, a typical Aberdeenshire farm untouched save for the arrival of electricity in 1955. The stumbling block was the railway carriage.

The commissioners had been asked for a large part of the £300,000 it would cost to move the farm nine miles to an agricultural heritage centre.

The idea was novel; no complete farm had ever been moved before in Scotland. But Roger Carr, the commission chairman, admits there was "some resistance" to taking along the third-class railway carriage which had been variously fertiliser and feed store, and summer dormitory annex for the farm children.

"Not all the commissioners were convinced that moving an old railway carriage was really the best use of public funds," Mr Carr says. He himself needed no convincing. One of the distinguishing features of an Aberdeenshire smallholding, he successfully pleaded, was a railway carriage. Sold in their hundreds between the wars to local farmers by the now defunct Inverurie Loco Works, the carriages had become an integral feature of rural life in the area.

So starting last autumn Hare's Howe was moved, stone by stone, together with its railway carriage, two covered goods wagons, cattle byre, stable, oat threshing mill and engine (which had once powered an ice-cream machine in Elgin), and an entire workshop of broken saws, two-gallon petrol cans and tractor-driven mole fumigator.

Within nine months the neat, grey farmhouse, with its beige-tiled fireplace, Westclox alarm on the mantelpiece and flowery bedroom linoleum, was moved from a windswept site above the village of New Deer to Aden Country Park, agricultural heritage centre,

Old Macdonald had a museum piece

An entire Aberdeenshire farm has been transported to an agricultural heritage centre — railway carriage and all



Removals with a difference: Margaret Barron with Howe's Hare behind her, on its new site

and under the annual gaze of 150,000 visitors. There were two other ingredients crucial to the scheme: Margaret Barron, the owner of Hare's Howe, who had to be persuaded that moving her home (without her in it) was a good idea, and Malcolm Forbes, the late American publisher, millionaire and Scotophile, who had to be persuaded that the idea was good enough to support.

Miss Barron had come to Hare's Howe as a child in 1935, when her father bought it. The railway carriage came a year later to complete the square of the farmyard. The middle door was painted white so that her father, partially blinded in the first

world war, could get his bearings. It remains white today. At harvest time Miss Barron and her cousins were moved into the end compartment to make way for the grown-ups in the house. With some seasonal help she later farmed Hare's Howe virtually single-handed until last year, as well as keeping house for her late father.

In 1986 Andrew Hill, the Aden Country Park curator, arrived to inspect an ox harness for the park's collection. Miss Barron's grandfather had yoked an Orkney ox with a cow for ploughing a croft at the end of the last century. In Hare's Howe Mr Hill recognised a complete, unreconstructed farm. Its

description fitted exactly the academic papers on Aberdeenshire farms, a surprisingly well-researched subject: one-and-a-half storey, stone-built farmhouse with dormer windows, L-shaped or U-shaped buildings... and a railway carriage.

What excited Mr Hill was that the critical years of transition from horse to tractor were preserved at Hare's Howe. The stable and much of the tack for Love and Tibbie, Miss Barron's pair, were still there. But so were the grey Fergie tractor and the horse cart modified for tractor work.

Fortunately for Mr Hill, the owner of Hare's Howe had had her fill of coarse winters on 30 acres, and was thinking about retirement to the village

of New Deer. By the early 1980s Forbes was taking an increasing interest in the area in which his father, the founder of *Forbes* magazine, had been brought up. He had already had his father's remains exhumed in New Jersey and reinterred in his home parish. He had also revived the local picnic and sports day. Indulging, perhaps unwisely in an area of persistent wind, his passion for ballooning Forbes once crashed, or landed, no one quite remembers which, on Hare's Howe. When, several years later, he was taken to the farm by a project supporter, he was able truthfully to claim that he had already visited the farm.

FORBES, like Mr Carr after him, needed no more convincing. According to local folklore he wrote out a cheque "then and there" for £10,000. In fact the cheque arrived several weeks later, but the effect was the same.

For Mr Hill it was the financial breakthrough he needed: That £10,000 was worth £100,000. It convinced others that this was a project worth doing and backing.

Hare's Howe was opened on May 3 by Miss Barron, who had overseen the operation on both sites with a mixture of awe and amusement. She had watched the byre cobbles lifted and relaid, the rubble walls broken down and rebuilt by local stonemasons, and the roof of her old home sawn apart and craned off in three sections. The railway carriage was the last building to move, its steel girders still in a remarkable condition.

Two days before the opening, while inspecting the last-minute chaos with her brown and white collie bitch, Sparkie, Miss Barron was seized by curiosity. "Get to your bed," she ordered. And Sparkie headed straight for her bed behind the barn door.

ALASTAIR ROBERTSON
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243 people have paid up to £7500 for a census of England which is 900 years out of date. Have they lost their senses?

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243 people have paid up to £7500 for a census of England which is 900 years out of date. Have they lost their senses?

CLASSICAL MUSIC

LA is not so laid-back any more

Other American orchestras fly to Britain, when they feel brave enough. The Los Angeles Philharmonic sails on the QE2. At least, 40 of its members have just done so, providing some unusually high-class entertainment on the New York-Southampton run as a prelude to the orchestra's European tour.

Such a risky stunt fits most "music lovers' image of the "LA Phil". Marvellous players are attracted by the fat salaries and climate of the west coast, the theory goes, and sooner or later their performances become as terminally plush as the lifestyle. Fine conductors succumb, too: the LA Phil's past music directors have included Klemperer, Mehta, Giffuni and Previn, but somehow none of them quite broke through that Californian veneer of laid-back urbanity.

That is the image. The reality is that suddenly the LA Phil management - by which one inevitably means the colourful Ernest Fleischmann, former manager of the London Symphony Orchestra, who has ruled Los Angeles' musical life for 22 years - has embarked on as bold a period of experimentation, musical and social, as can be seen anywhere in the world. As it tours Britain this week under the veteran German conductor Kurt Sanderling, its plans deserve discussion.

The orchestra has been thrown on to young men's shoulders. After Previn resigned two years ago, following a row with Fleischmann, Fleischmann took the gamble of his career: he appointed the young Finnish conductor Esa-Pekka Salonen as Previn's successor. He already had Simon Rattle as principal guest conductor.

Then, last November, came the most surprising appointment. Peter Sellars, the enfant terrible of opera production (he produced the "Don Giovanni as dope pusher" Mozart production seen on British television last month) would be "creative consultant" with the LA Phil. In little over a year, Fleischmann has turned one of America's more staid cultural institutions over to three young men, with distinctly radical views.

Why? The reason is simple: American orchestras are facing an audience crisis. The numbers are not dropping yet, but the audiences are not getting any younger, nor any less white and middle-class. Fleischmann recognised this before almost anyone else; in 1987 he gave a lecture called "The Orchestra is Dead" - a bold title, from a man who earns a reputed \$500,000 a year (£290,000) running one. His thesis is that most orchestras must recognise that



Fleischmann: colourful

ever, the LA Phil is trying exceedingly hard with its "outreach". It sends out chamber ensembles in a city-sponsored "after-school programme" designed to "provide a shield for a percentage of the city's youth who are vulnerable to neighbourhood environments plagued by street gangs and drug peddlers". It has a "Music Mobile", a bus stacked with instruments which visits outlying communities so that children can, in a wonderful Californian phrase, "interact with the instruments".

Fleischmann has other ambitious schemes. He has just launched a Hollywood Bowl Orchestra, to relieve the LA Phil of some of the burden of a six-nights-a-week of summer season, without jeopardising the crucial income from the 750,000 people who attend. And by the turn of the century the orchestra will have a new home, Walt Disney Hall.

RICHARD MORRISON

● The Los Angeles Philharmonic is at the Festival Hall, London (071-928 8800) on Wednesday and Sunday, and Symphony Hall, Birmingham (021 782 8252) on Thursday and Friday.

'On Christmas Eve Michael Andrews was made redundant after 27 years in his job. With two children costing £2,000 a term at schools he joined hundreds of parents who are struggling to meet fees.'



The TES reports on how the recession is affecting the independent sector

TES
THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
- Friday -

An artful knight's work

The grand old Englishman and art historian, Sir John Pope-Hennessy, whose autobiography is published this week, talks to Jasper Rees

An Englishman wishing to make his mark in Florence gives himself a head start if he is a knight and his name is John. Uccello's mighty fresco of Sir John Hawkwood, an Essex mercenary who sold his services to the Florentines, was painted in 1436. Precisely half a millennium later the young John Pope-Hennessy first visited Italy, since when he has laid down a challenge to Hawkwood as England's most significant export to Florence.

Unlike the soldier, who is referred to in the Duomo's fresco as Giovanni Acuto, Pope-Hennessy's name has not been immortalised, but the first half of his surname already has an Italian ring and behind his back it sometimes serves as a rather apt nickname. Renaissance art history is a smallish field but, at the age of 78, Sir John

on his published list are studies of Giovanni di Paolo, Sassetti, Raphael, Luca della Robbia, Fra Angelico, Domenico Ghirlandaio and Cellini, as well as a three-volume introduction to Italian sculpture. The last word on Donatello is expected. Most of these books were born and nurtured in Florence, a city to which Pope-Hennessy returned every summer after the war, until he settled there 50 years after his first fleeting visit. He nowadays describes himself as "an emigrant American with a British passport".

His conversation pulls the same stunt as his prose, brimming as it is with qualifying "you see's" and "mean's", and "it seems to me's", which disguise the fact, as in matters of artistic attribution, that he tends to regard what he says as set in stone. In fact, the phrase "does not suffer fools gladly" might have been invented for him, and most people would fall into the foolish category. Having said that, he also talks knowledgeably about the Italian Open tennis tournament, being an ardent tennis fan who used to visit Wimbledon as regularly as the Royal Opera House and the Uffizi. As for Tuscan sports, Pope-Hennessy dislikes the Palio horse race in Siena, but has a penchant for the historic

football tournament played in Florence. "The game isn't much fun unless it turns bad, and then I suppose it's quite exciting." Although he says that "you don't run into people if you're going to achieve anything," one senses that he has taken to art history and museum curatorship rather as one Florentine historic footballer takes to another. "I was at one end so I couldn't see properly," he recalls of one game, "but somebody had his ear bitten off."

Pope-Hennessy's vocabulary of approval includes phrases like "first-rate" and "of the highest quality", but he is verbally equipped to bite an ear off, too. Roy Strong's claim that Pope-Hennessy remains embittered by Strong's emergence "like a butterfly from a chrysalis" is, according to Pope-Hennessy, "absolutely appalling, embarrassing beyond description. The reason I am angry with him is not that he was a successful director but that he was a failure."

Pope-Hennessy just as publicly deplores the appointment of Elizabeth Esteve-Coll, "a sort of super-secretary", as Strong's successor. "I've



Pope-Hennessy: the phrase "does not suffer fools gladly" might have been invented for him, and most people fall into the foolish category

never met her, but she appears from her statements to be entirely lacking in the ability to formulate long-term objectives or to inspire the staff towards them."

So goes Pope-Hennessy put-down, revealing even more about the assassin than the victim. The key Pope-Hennessy qualities are an esteem for self and for the big institutions away from which he has rarely strayed, and which taught him about (another of his buzz-words) "standards".

His area of achievement may be a rarefied one, but it is not too far-fetched to suggest that within it Pope-Hennessy is as pre-eminent an Englishman as the recently deceased Graham Greene and David Lean were in theirs. And he has battled his way

there, not specifically against other people, but against bureaucracy and ignorance. Does he then have an affinity with Sir John Hawkwood? "I don't honestly think I could willingly identify with any of those great generals - not Francesco Sforza, not Bartolomeo Colleoni, not Gattamelata, not Hawkwood." As he issues the denial with a flourish, the bell of Santa Lucia chimes prettily outside his study window. This seems vaguely symbolic, though symbolic of what it is not so easy to say. Sir John would probably know.

● Learning to Look by John Pope-Hennessy is published this week by Heinemann, price £20

He always mistrusted television, so forfeited the chance to reach the masses

RECORDS: JAZZ

Pearl shelled out the nitty-gritty

Pearl Bailey: The Best of Pearl Bailey - The Roulette Years (Roulette CDP7-96483) Gerry Mulligan/Chet Baker: The Best of the Gerry Mulligan Quartet with Chet Baker (Pacific Jazz CDP7-96481) Vince Jones: Trustworthy Little Sweethearts (Intuition Int 3048)



Pearl Bailey: she played the role of man-eater

RAUNCHINESS has a long and honourable tradition in black music. Louis Jordan, Bessie Smith and Ma Rainey all knew how to amuse eroticism into their act. The more extreme of modern rap musicians are not, essentially, doing anything new. The difference today lies in subtlety, or rather the lack of it.

Pearl Bailey's rich vein of innuendo receives ample space on the Roulette compilation, which covers the period between 1957 and 1963. Bailey - "Pearly Mae" to her intimates - inhabited a world of cocktails and afternoon indiscretions. Deploying that world-weary voice, she played the role of the man-eater who has come to deliver the latest round of gossip from the cocktail lounge.

"She Had to Go and Lose It at The Astor" epitomises the formula. Half anecdote, half song, it ostensibly tells the story of a mislaid cape. As the tale reaches its conclusion, Bailey's eyebrows can almost be heard arching towards the heavens. "Since I Became a Hussey For My Husband" is equally risqué without crossing the line into bad taste. Bailey performed for adults, not Madonna fans.

The remaining ballads and torch songs achieve mixed results. "Love For Sale", which ought to have been custom-built for her, turns out to be a routine performance: routine, that is, by her standards. Like just about everyone else she failed to breathe life into "I Left My Heart In

San Francisco", but the squibs are easily outnumbered by delights such as the ruminative "I Got Rhythm".

Now that the controversy over west coast jazz has dwindled away to little more than a footnote in the reference books, the partnership between Gerry Mulligan and Chet Baker can be appreciated on its own terms. The absence of a pianist - which was originally entirely a matter of chance - allows extra room for the beguiling counterpoint of baritone saxophone and trumpet.

After barely a year, the quartet broke up, when Baker succumbed to the temptation to go solo. In the years that followed, he made some memorable recordings in between bouts of dissolution. He seldom later found the consistency that he displays here.

His ghost hovers behind Vince Jones, a much-praised Australian trumpeter with leanings towards pop and rhythm and blues. Like his compatriot James Morrison, Jones shows that Australian musicians can hold their own on the world stage. His singing voice, however, tends to be even more fragile than Baker's.

CLIVE DAVIS

REVIEWS, page 18
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Something old out of Africa: Rosemary Righter reports on the exodus of the Falashas, snatched from the jaws of Ethiopia's civil war



Back to Israel at last: Falashas leave their plane at Tel Aviv

Operation Solomon, a logistically flawless international rescue which airlifted 17,000 Ethiopian Jews to new homes in Israel in less than two days, has again demonstrated how effectively Israel can mobilise to protect the people of its great diaspora. Most of them peasants from the mountainous regions of Gondar in north-west Ethiopia, have no doubt that they are at last "coming home". Yet until the beginning of this century, the Falashas were lost to the rest of Jewry, and less than 20 years ago the rabbinate in Israel had yet to accept that they were Jews at all.

The questions surrounding their identity are both racial and religious. Even allowing for the most romantic interpretation of the fate of the lost tribe of Dan, captured by the King of Syria 2,700 years ago, white Jews asked how there could be black Jews, how they had come to be settled in this remote mountain land, why the language they speak, Amharic, is not even Semitic. The Falashas in turn were

equally astounded to discover their brethren. For 2,000 years, they had believed themselves to be the last Jews on earth.

Falasha tradition has it that they are descended from Israelite attendants on Menelik, son of the union between the Queen of Sheba and King Solomon, who escorted the boy back to his country after he had completed his studies in Jerusalem. Nobody knows for certain: if there is a blood relationship, it has proved impossible to verify. But that they are not Ethiopians is clear enough: in Amharic, the national language, Falasha is a derogatory term meaning foreigner, or "wandering one". The Falashas, who had their own kingdom in Ethiopia in

medieval times, have kept themselves apart in their own villages.

More important by far under Israel's Law of Return is the authentic Jewishness of the Falashas' faith. Theirs is a specific, fascinating religion in the tradition of "biblical" Judaism. Unlike mainstream Jewry, they have monks and nuns, and their fidelity is to the Bible, not to the authority of rabbinic laws. But until this century, that was true of plenty of non-European Jews.

The Falashas are circumcised, ornament their homes with a symbol resembling the Star of David and follow customs that resemble many ancient Jewish traditions. And they vigorously assert their pride, through long centuries of

isolation, in having kept the faith.

In 1973, these credentials were finally accepted by the Sephardi chief rabbi, Ovadia Yosef, who insisted that these lost Jews "must be saved from absorption and assimilation" and brought to Israel. Two years later, the Israeli government formally reversed its previous position that Falashas were not Jews.

The evacuation began, slowly and secretly, in the late 1970s, mostly via Sudan, and accelerated dramatically during the 1984-85 Ethiopian famine, when the Falashas were suddenly seen in Israel to be gravely at risk. Nearly half the total population of 40,000 was brought out before the scheme became public, was denounced by

both Sudan and Ethiopia and the flow reduced to a trickle.

Those Falashas have not had an easy time in Israel. Devout but unsophisticated, totally unfamiliar with modern industrial society and some of them, at least, less than complimentary about the lack of religious favour they found in the promised land, they have had to contend with social confusion and some degree of racial hostility. Their enormous families, some the size of small clans, have also made it difficult to integrate them in Israeli life.

In addition, the rabbinate initially required them to go through a symbolic conversion ceremony. This was dropped in October 1985 only after their indignant public

protests won them wide popular sympathy. Other difficulties in absorbing them persist.

Why then has Israel gone to such extraordinary lengths to bring the entire tribe home? The reason is not demography — there are far too few of them to make a significant difference to the Arab-Jew balance in the country. Family reunification is one factor. The abrupt halt to the first wave separated brothers from sisters and severed what were tightly knit village communities. The second is that with Mengistu fled, Israel, which renewed diplomatic relations with Ethiopia in 1989 with the aim of getting them out, fears reprisals against the Falashas by Ethiopia's victorious insurgents.

Israel's diplomatic gamble of 1989 made it possible to move the Falashas to Addis Ababa, and has now paid off with their triumphant rescue. The joy of the Falashas in their "return" has surrounded the doubts. Different they may be, these folk from another century, but Israelis are unstintingly welcoming them home.

Ronald Butt

Uncle Sam downgraded

It is, indeed, a funny old world. Mrs Thatcher, as we know, is devoted to the cult of the special relationship with America. Yet one curious consequence of Thatcherite public-spending economics has been the diversion of resources from the field of American studies which promote the cultural understanding on which the relationship relies.

In particular, the Institute of United States Studies in the University of London is being squeezed to an extent that may well lead to its extinction. Three years ago it was amalgamated with the Institute of Historical Research, though under that umbrella it still functions as a separate entity. Its grant for next year has been cut by over a third, and it is about to lose its library and librarian to the central university library.

Two developments have triggered the threat to the institute. First, the new Universities Funding Council has not given it the "special factor" funding that would have guaranteed its independent survival. Secondly, there is an internal struggle within the university between the centre and the colleges, the latter increasingly asserting their wish to control their own budgets and to resist the slicing off of funds by the centre (for the benefit of such bodies as the institute).

The institute's activities (which include not only teaching for post-graduate degrees but also the promotion of conferences, seminars and academic publications) will thus be curtailed. The struggle by academics to protect their individual disciplines is at the expense of so-called "area studies", of the kind the institute promotes, which bring together various disciplines relating to a given area — in this case the United States.

There are, of course, first degree and post-graduate courses in particular aspects of American studies (history, politics, literature and so on) in most universities and polytechnics. But if the institute goes, it will be the end of the principal centre fostering the study of American culture in the round in the city which arguably has the best resources for the subject anywhere outside America.

If the institute is extinguished, it will not be the first time that London's far-flung university, with its galaxy of colleges and institutions extending from the centre to suburban Surrey, has let itself be driven to economics which first deprive an institution of credibility by weakening it with cuts and then bring its closure on grounds that it is no longer viable. But a special significance attaches to this case.

For one thing, student interest in American studies generally has been rising well beyond the places now available. Yet the number of Americanists in the universities has been drastically cut (though there has been a recent improvement).

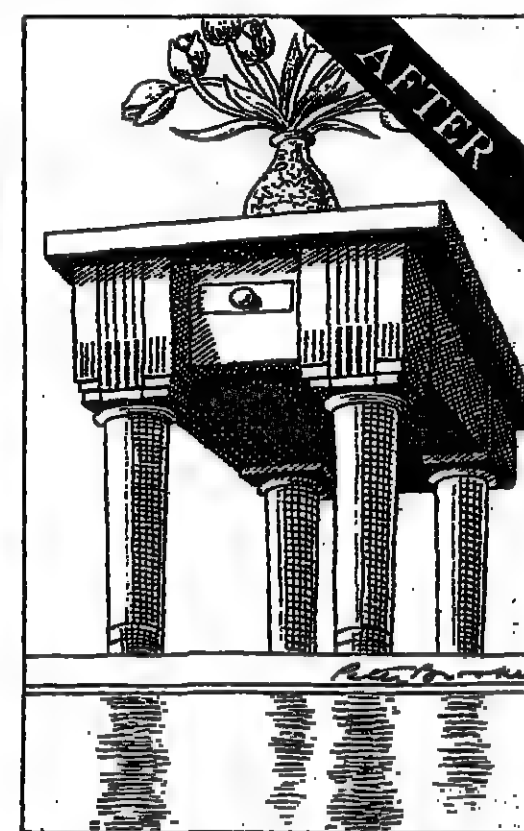
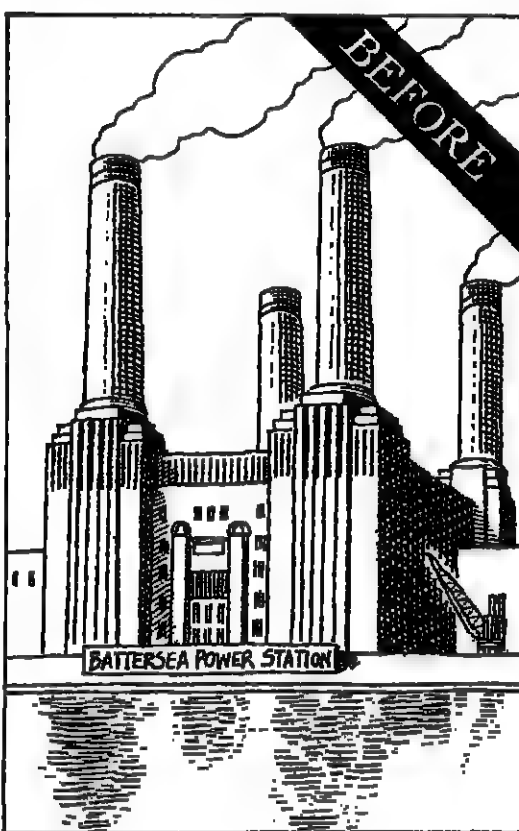
To academics in this field all this compares oddly with the revival of the special relationship by the Gulf war and the seal set on it by the Queen's visit to America. They also wryly note the contrast with the liberal sums of money increasingly available for European studies, albeit mainly from the Community rather than as university grants. The Fulbright Commission, whose job includes the exchange of British and American academics, has expressed concern about the future of American studies, which the American embassy shows signs of sharing.

Given the wind blowing towards European union, the campaign in the US for a North American free trade area (perhaps ultimately embracing South America too) and the danger of a trade war between the two blocs, we cannot afford diminished Anglo-American understanding. Though that danger is as yet remote, Europe has become more inward looking, and a British failure to nourish the American relationship at a relatively small cost is less than wise.

At a time when Britain is in some danger of being boxed in within the European connection, it should be remembered that keeping other connections going is part of the basic wisdom of politics. Perhaps the threatened institute could be endowed by the promised money of the Thatcher charitable foundation which seems in need of a useful home.

Putting last legs to good use

Bernard Levin reflects on the sorry condition of London landmarks that have outlived their original purpose



destroyed by fire, a legend far more hazy than the Battersea one grew upon the ashes, and in no time was running rapidly round London, to the effect that the Duchess of Windsor had deliberately set it alight in revenge for not being allowed to be queen.

There was also the Windsor Hotel (no relation) in Victoria Street; as I recall, it was a listed building, and uniquely listed, too — it was so stupendously ugly that it was deliberately preserved for years, possibly to frighten naughty children (eat up your spinach or you'll be put in the Windsor Hotel). Mind you, when I contemplate what Victoria Street is like now, I sometimes think it got the wrong end of the bargain.

The Langham Hotel might have suffered a similar fate, before the Hilton group acquired and restored it (very handsomely, I must say), it had deteriorated badly, used for years as a kind of

overflow for Broadcasting House, just across the road. Its decline was a source of anxiety to me, because it was there I began my career, on a radio programme for the BBC, and I naturally had sentimental feelings for the place. (I wonder if during the rebuilding anybody thought to put up some kind of plaque immortalising me. I would settle for "The Bernard Levin champagne bar".)

When the Murdoch Revolution took place there was much discussion of the future of the vacated premises in Gray's Inn Road; perhaps as ever, I suggested arson, particularly for the Times building, which had been designed and decorated in "Seifert Venetian" style. I doubt if any Dogs would recognise it as such. ITN bought the Sunday Times building, planning to use it as it was. But they reckoned without the effect of having a few hundred journalists in a confined space for many

years; I tell you, we can filthify a palace into a pigsty in no time at all. When the March on Wapping (where *The Times* is now printed) arrived, we went in, through the picket-lines, and stood breathless at the long tables with the gleaming electronic terminals winking greenly, and everything around perfectly clean and shining. It took us 48 hours at most to turn the place into a kind of low-class abattoir. ITN tore down the 37 entirely, and started again; I don't blame them.

I once toyed with the idea of buying St Pancras station, to shelve my books when I ran out of wall-space and to prevent the house falling down under the weight. BR refused a deal — they said they wanted it for their trains — and so 8,000 of my books are now in store. But I have my eye on St Pancras Chambers, which used to be the Midland Hotel and is now full of nothing but ghosts and dust.

All this meandering began when I read, with considerable scepticism, that my old coil, the London School of Economics, plans to buy County Hall and shift the entire LSE empire into it.

County Hall was once what was later called the Greater London Council, but for many years previously was the London County Council — a far more dignified moniker. It was run like the empire of an American "boss" by Herbert Morrison, one of the most consummate politicians of this century. I recall that in the 1945 general election Morrison, who was supreme of the Labour forces, kept back his *chef d'oeuvre* to the last moment; we went to bed on election eve, and woke up to find every lamp-post in town sporting a sticker which read "Come on, London, we're voting Labour today!" (And London, and Britain, did.) In the middle of the night Morrison had poured in an army of amateur flyposters.

County Hall has been seceded at since it was built, but I have always admired the view from across the river, with the building showing its elegant curve. When the GLC was wound up, it posed a problem: nobody knew what to do with it. There was talk of turning it into a luxury hotel, but the cost of the conversion would have been so enormous that nobody had the nerve (or at least the money) to do so. The building is still empty, which cannot be good for the structure, let alone the interior, but no one had offered a serious idea of what it might become until the LSE decided to have a go. Presumably the coffers are reasonably full, though how to put a price on the place I cannot imagine. Conversion would take years, which brings me back to my youth; when I went up, there was incessant building and renovation going on at the LSE, inspiring Kingsley Martin, long-time editor of *The New Statesman*, to say to the director, "You reign over an empire on which the concrete never sets".

As for derelict buildings, which started my hark, I have just learned from an unreliable source that the Hayward Gallery is to be pulled down, together with the Queen Elizabeth Hall. If it is true, may I stake a claim for being allowed to give the first whack with the first pickaxe?

...and moreover

MATTHEW PARRIS

Just occasionally, in the face of war, pestilence and human folly of every kind, we are given a small reminder that God is good. Yesterday, coincidentally with the Governor of the Bank of England being awarded a £430-a-week salary increase after urging wage restraint, the *Almighty* caused the *Sunday Times* Insight team to discover that Robin Leigh-Pemberton is also to receive £60,000 extra per year for not growing crops on his 2,200-acre Kent estate.

I looked down at my *Sunday Times*, let out a great snort of pleasure, then looked up at the sky. Was it just an unusual cloud formation, or did I see a great celestial eye giving me a great celestial wink? Modern life teems with nonsense yet all too often each nonsense runs on its own tracks, round and round in fashionable circles, safe from challenge. But when tracks cross, and one nonsense smashes head-on into another, detailing both in a single delicious pile-up, then — oh then! — is life not sweet?

It is now 11 years since I wrote to this newspaper saying that the intellectual triumph of the European Community's common agricultural policy pointed a lesson for all sectors of the economy. I proposed that ailing British Leyland be supported by a "common industrial policy" under which the European Commission would buy up all unsold BL cars at a guaranteed floor price, stockpile them on Canvey Island until they had deteriorated sufficiently, then give them to pensioners at Christmas. The editor, perhaps supposing

my suggestion to be a serious one, printed the letter in the bottom right-hand corner of the facing page but in Business News.

Agricultural policy moved on. It was five years later that I first heard the (then) agriculture minister, John MacGregor, tell a Conservative backbencher that the concept of "set-aside" for cereals (paying farmers not to grow them) was ludicrous. I warned him that he would soon be at the despatch box advocating it. He soon was.

A year or so later this newspaper published my proposal that the logic behind that policy be imaginatively extended. My idea was that the concrete cows you see in fields near Milton Keynes be manufactured by the ministry and "grazed" in farmers' fields for a rent payable to the farmers on conditions that the fields were used for nothing else. The rent could then be raised or lowered according to the ministry's desire to inhibit or encourage the production of milk. When the success of this scheme had been proved, we could move to "plastic grass" style wheatfields, the PVC crop being sold in squares, like carpet tiles, and placed on top of the earth, each acre attracting a ministry "rent".

This time the editor decided that my idea was a joke, and billed it as a humorous piece. But it has now been all but implemented. We lack only a physical sign (like plastic wheat) that Mr Leigh-Pemberton's land has gone out of real food production.

Poor Mr Leigh-Pemberton. "It is most offensive," said the agriculture minister, Mr Gummer, "for newspapers to write about people like that when they would not do it if it were anyone else." Oh dear! Then I fear Mr Gummer will find my next proposal equally offensive. It concerns Mr Leigh-Pemberton's other job.

Could we pay him not to be governor of the Bank of England? What I have in mind is a Robin Leigh-Pemberton (Set-Aside) Scheme and is fully consistent with the logic of the farm policy of which he already is the happy beneficiary.

I do not wish to be critical. It is not that he is not a very good governor, any more than that his eligibility for set-aside cereal grant is any slur on his farming methods. Quite the reverse. I am sure he is an excellent farmer. It is just that there are an awful lot of excellent farmers too many. He is an excellent governor, too. I'm sure. But there are an awful lot of people who would be governors of the Bank of England, and who might do it well. They cannot all do it at once, or we should have a glut, or even a "mountain" of governors. I have in mind that the European Commission might pay him (say) £3,000 for every week that he agrees not to be governor.

This is only the beginning. How much more we raise in order to pay Neil Kinnock not to be leader of the Labour party? Why, the scheme might even be extended to *Times* columnists. For a modest fee, I promise to go away for quite a long time.

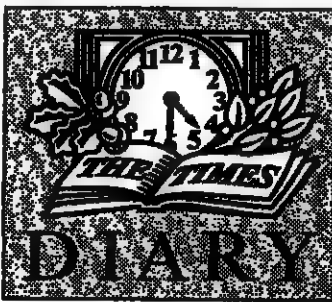
Old guard miss the bus

Whenever the general election is held, there will be no last hurrah for the SDF's Gang of Four. Determined to bury the disastrous splits of the 1987 campaign, the Liberal Democrats are offering only bit parts to Roy Jenkins, Shirley Williams and Bill Rodgers who, along with David Owen, made up the founding foursome.

Mrs Williams will return from Harvard for the campaign, but will probably be restricted to a regional tour. After addressing at least one meeting every night in past campaigns, Jenkins, leader of the Lib Dem peers, is philosophical about having only eight or ten this time. "The younger generation will be coming to the fore," he says. "I have campaigned in 15 parliamentary elections, so I have had a good run." Rodgers will be confined to backroom activities.

Des Wilson, the party's election supremo, is concentrating resources around Paddy Ashdown, Sir David Steel, Alan Beith and the party's young turks, Matthew Taylor and Simon Hughes. "You would not expect Neil Kinnock to parade former ministers now in the House of Lords," says Wilson. "We will use the MPs who will be working side-by-side with Paddy Ashdown in the Commons."

The battle bus, a familiar feature of the last two general elections, has also been scrapped — erasing memories, it is hoped, of how journalists on the respective Liberal and SDP buses in 1987 rang each other hourly to identify policy differences. Ashdown will instead fly around the country in a private jet. Given the Lib Dem budget of only £1.5 million, against the Tories' £20 million, it will not be the most sophisticated aircraft available. But, says Wilson: "It won't be a Gypsy Moth, and Paddy will not have to pilot it himself."



When Labour MP Tom Pendry was researching the history of his *Stalybridge and Hyde constituency*, he discovered that the last Tory MP for the Cheshire seat, Major Horace Brimston Cox, was alive and well in Salisbury some 45 years after losing it. Pendry invited Cox to the House of Commons to dinner along with Salisbury's MP, Robert Key, a junior environment minister. When Pendry was doing his homework he found that Stalybridge is not the only thing they have in common: Cox, too, is now a member of the Labour party.

New worlds

More than a century after Offenbach failed to compose a commissioned opera marking the United States' centenary, London librettist Don White has done it for him. Using music trawled from 28 of Offenbach's little-known operettas, he has come up with *Christopher Columbus* to mark the 500th anniversary next year of the discovery of America.

The music for White's work is taken mainly from *La Boite au Lai*, which Offenbach wrote in the American centenary year of 1876. "I haven't changed a note or piece of orchestration," he says. "Apart from four bars of *The Star Spangled Banner* it is all Offenbach." But White's Columbus is very different from that of the history books.

"I have made a few changes," says White. "I have portrayed him as an inveterate womaniser who has an affair with Queen Isabella. She is a rabid nymphomaniac hush and King Ferdinand sends Columbus to the Indies to get rid of him."

But is it art?

Only months after Glasgow ended its year as European City of Culture, charges of philistinism fill the air. A dispute has erupted around two 24-foot high murals in the concourse of the city's new Royal Concert Hall, which are to be towed away a year to the day after they were put up last October.

The murals — exuberant abstracts costing £50,000 — were commissioned to commemorate culture year by Strathclyde Regional Council, which then gave them to the city of Glasgow. Pat



Lally, leader of Labour-controlled Glasgow district council, has disliked them from the start. He attacked them in front of 150 guests at the hand-over ceremony; now he has ordered their removal and commissioned others to take their place. "I shall not take this lying down," says Ian McCulloch, the artist. "It makes a mockery of our

claim to be a city of culture." Lally's brief for new murals in keeping with the city's image says they must be based on the theme "Glasgow, city of hope". It sounds as though Glasgow needs it.

Old baby face

With plans for his 75th birthday celebrations in July well under way, Edward Heath was baffled by the number of people who rang him to praise the invitation. "Brilliant," said Lady Meyer, wife of the Tory MP who set the anti-Thatcher bandwagon rolling. "Only you could have thought of it."

Heath telephoned his private office, which is organising the champagne party for 200 guests on a Thames riverboat, to find out what brilliant feat he was supposed to have performed. He was shown one of the cards, carrying a photograph of a dimpled and tousle-haired toddler. "Who is that child?" he demanded. "Why," said Robert Vaudry, his private secretary, "it's you."

The portrait of Heath, barefoot and in a check romper suit, was taken when he was two at the family home in Broadstairs. Vaudry had secretly traded the family archive for it. While Heath may not have been sure who it was, many of the staff who used to run his private office, including John MacGregor, John Gummer, William Waldegrave and Douglas Hurd, were in no doubt.

Robert Waller's fourth edition of the *Almanac of British Politics*, which has just been published, is already looking out of date. It states: "Monmouth has shown a most un-Welsh devotion to the Conservative party." While acknowledging the discontent with the late MP, Sir John Stradling Thomas, who faced calls for his resignation, it concludes: "All this should not adversely affect the Conservatives' chance of holding Monmouth."



DEFYING GRAVITY

No earthly purpose is served by the government cutting interest rates, unless rates to borrowers also come down. Three-and-a-half points into the Chancellor of the Exchequer's interest rate reductions, precisely this problem is impeding the government's economic strategy. Ministers who thought they were pulling a string find they are pushing on it instead. Signs of a recovery, promised for the second half of the year by Norman Lamont, stubbornly fail to materialise.

The mild public criticism of the building societies' failure to reduce mortgage rates, voiced by John MacGregor last week, was but a pale reflection of ministers' private incandescence. Perhaps the Halifax was feeling the heat when it decided that borrowers need not continue to wait a year before getting the benefits of reduced rates. However, the building societies at least have the excuse that they were as slow to increase rates when they were rising as they now are to cut them when they are falling. The banks showed no such reticence. The evidence, therefore, that the rates banks charge to borrowers are failing to follow market rates downwards, is the more damning.

The problem does not mostly concern big firms. The days when large companies practised settled monogamy with a single bank are past. Most maintain extra-marital relations with more than one banker. They play the field on national and international capital markets. Some enjoy equity funding on the side, as the recent rounds of rights issues make clear. So long as their businesses are fundamentally healthy, they can expect to raise capital at keen rates.

Small firms are different. The banks could hardly be more sedulous in seeking their custom. Each competes to advertise its services to small firms. They know that the small man has no option but to borrow from them; and to borrow, by and large, on the terms and at the interest rates that the bank wishes to impose.

The banks claim that stiff rates of interest reflect past losses on this kind of business. But banks have lost money in all kinds of

areas. They fell over themselves to fund Third World debt, now savagely written down in their loan books. Eastern Europe had only to cough to borrow on the keenest terms. Companies such as British and Commonwealth built debt mountains on faith. These and other unwise investments have put a constant pressure on the banks' profits and reserves. Small businesses, unable to go elsewhere, give them the opportunity to rebuild those reserves and safeguard their shareholders' funds. Hence a rapacity that would make Shylock blush.

They are being supported in this by the Bank of England. The Bank likes to portray itself as the defender of the public interest. Indeed, it regards its performance in this respect as superior even to that of Her Majesty's Government, from which it wants its independence. Yet on this matter, it identifies the public interest with that of the big clearing banks. Its priority is the stability of the financial system. If that means turning a blind eye while the clearers screw small businesses, so be it.

Of course, the Bank must retain a responsibility for the banking system. In present circumstances, it should be exercising its influence in favour of a steady replenishment of the banks' reserves. Should ever a bank get into trouble, the Bank must make sure that depositors are protected. However, none of this means protecting the present management of that bank, still less its shareholders; nor does it mean underwriting usury. The banks made bad loans in the past. The job of the Bank does not extend to enabling them to exploit their monopoly power to bail themselves out of the consequences now.

Robin Leigh-Pemberton, the governor of the Bank of England, is enjoying the 17 per cent increase in pay that his non-executive directors so graciously granted him. In return, the public wants him to perform. He should promote competition rather than collusion among the clearers; and he should use his famous eyebrows not to protect their profits, but in the interests of those who consume their services.

RIGHTS AND WRONGS

The test of an organisation dedicated to widely supported ideals is whether it is still taken seriously when its criticism falls upon those who feel they deserve it least. Amnesty International, 30 years old tomorrow, has won its spurs by being as ready to criticise Britain's record in Northern Ireland or America's retention of the death penalty as to lambast the human rights record of President Saddam Hussein's Iraq.

Before Amnesty was set up, human rights campaigning had been plagued by partisan loyalties. Peter Benenson, Amnesty's founder, insisted that local groups should undertake to adopt three prisoners each: one from the Eastern bloc, one from the West and one from a non-aligned country. The policy did not always save the organisation from being *parti pris*, for a time, it was seen as overreliant to criticise communist regimes. But Amnesty's political independence, vital to its reputation, has gradually been won back.

Amnesty also understood, long before many other pressure groups, the importance of the human story. People can identify far more easily with individual cases, and each release from prison (though Amnesty never claims credit for it) produces immense satisfaction for those who have written endless missives to embassies and ministers of justice on the prisoner's behalf. The volunteers are so well organised that, when urgent action is needed, 15,000 letters from all over the world on behalf of a single case can land on a minister's desk.

Amnesty's success is the obverse side of the failure of official human rights machinery to operate as intended. Governments need checks. Not only are citizens, as Luther argued, liable to hurt each other unless restricted by laws; states too are tempted to abuse their power. In Europe, supranational institutions offer redress to citizens whose governments have broken promises made when ratifying conventions. But in too many other countries, human rights conventions are honoured mainly in the breach.

The United Nations has, since the second world war, fashioned an impressive body of human rights law. These international standards, allowing the world community a legitimate interest in a government's treatment of its citizens, provide a valuable basis for passing judgment. But the UN has been

notoriously ineffective in holding governments to their commitments.

The UN Commission on Human Rights has spent most of its energies on pillorying countries such as South Africa and Israel and ignoring far worse crimes in countries able to muster enough votes to keep their affairs off the agenda. The cold war played its part, but a system that sets governments, the main offenders, in judgment over their peers is fundamentally flawed. As a consequence, Amnesty is taken far more seriously than the UN.

The past few years have seen a worldwide renaissance of democracy. Not just in the Eastern bloc, but in Latin America, and some parts of Africa and Asia too, citizens have set themselves free. The emergence into the light of the countries of central and Eastern Europe has forced Amnesty to drop its policy of having an Eastern European or Soviet prisoner on every group's list. That must be termed a success.

Yet brutality has not ceased, and never will. Amnesty reports that methods of torture have become crueler and more sophisticated. Extra-judicial killings and disappearances are on the increase, possibly because of the effectiveness of prisoner-of-conscience campaigns. Two out of three people live in countries that torture and kill their citizens; and political opponents are imprisoned in more than half the world's countries. Amnesty has proved that it can reach the parts that the UN cannot, or will not, reach. But its job will never be done.

And while Amnesty's non-governmental status gives it some advantages, its existence should not be seen by governments as a substitute for more decisive enforcement of international conventions. Governments can attach human rights conditions to aid. And those with the will to do so can put their own houses in order, not just by signing conventions, but by allowing their citizens domestic redress if the conventions are breached. That means tolerating an independent judiciary with the power to hold the executive to account. It is precisely when the rights of the citizen conflict with the political aims of the executive that a government's commitment to human rights is truly tested. Only countries that give the citizen a chance to win when such a tension arises can properly be described as free.

BLOOMING BUDS OF MAY

If swarms of cars or walkers tested country lovers' patience over the weekend, the sight of meadows and verges brimming with wild flowers may have helped to soothe their spirits. The British countryside looks its best in May: buttercups, bluebells, cow parsley and the eponymous blossom run rampant, while cowslips and anemones show their shy faces to the rambler. But for decades the country's wildflower population has been in decline, thanks to weedkillers and the farmers who use them. Now environmental awareness and changes in agricultural policy may launch a revival.

Already, many farmers have gone green, some from conviction, others to secure taxpayers' support for continued subsidy. They have adopted a less intensive agriculture which reduces the need for herbicides. Trees and hedgerows are being planted afresh. Meanwhile, wild flowers are being encouraged on road and motorway verges. These are the new micro-wildernesses where solace from the pressures of modernity can be sought.

The government's set-aside scheme, which has taken about 3 per cent of cereal acreage out of cultivation, allows meadows to grow where once fields were ploughed. The less romantic farmers are tempted to sow rye-grass, a tough but easy-to-manage species which crowds out wild flowers. In south-east England, the Countryside Commission began an experiment last year to even out the economics. Farmers earn an extra £45 an acre for sowing grass that is more sympathetic to flowers, planting woods, restoring hedgerows, and improving access to the land.

The government should steal a leaf from the commission's book. Over the weekend, EC agricultural ministers agreed on their own set-aside scheme, which may be used by up to 45 per cent of British cereal farmers. Payments should be made only to farmers who observe the commission's rules. The common agricultural policy would then cease for once to be simply a farmers' benefit, and would do something for the habitat of the taxpayers who pay for it.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Gatt worries for the Third World

From the Co-Editor of The Ecologist and others

Sir, It is significant that the chief executives of seven of the world's largest multinational corporations should write so passionately (May 22) in favour of "restoring impetus" to the Gatt negotiations.

They and their shareholders have much to gain from the further liberalisation of trade, but can the same be said for the rest of us? To claim that a breakdown in the Gatt negotiations "would fall most heavily" on the developing world is highly misleading.

The South Commission, a body made up of more than 30 Third World political leaders past and present, has described the Uruguay Round as "a major threat to political and economic sovereignty", a view echoed by the governments of countless Third World countries.

In particular, both the EC and the US are seeking to outlaw the right of developing countries to protect their farmers against cheap food imports. This is a recipe for mass hunger and deepening food dependence, since it will enable western grain companies to continue dumping heavily-subsidised US and EC food surpluses without hindrance.

Third World governments are also opposed to the introduction of stringent patent laws, since these will make their countries even more dependent on western companies. They are worried about northern biotechnology companies patenting the genetic natural resources of the south without compensation.

A growing number of environmental and consumer groups in the north oppose the proposals, which they rightly perceive as a threat to public health standards, food quality and the environment.

If these proposals were passed it could be "Gatt-illegal", for example, to ban cigarette advertising, or to

take similar public health measures that threaten "free trade". A test case by the US Government against Thailand's attempts to resist cigarette imports and advertising has already been referred to the Gatt council.

Countries wishing to restrict the import of tropical timber on environmental grounds would also be forbidden from doing so if the rules were changed, whilst the "harmonisation" of pesticide standards, a key proposal, would also mean that many pesticides banned or restricted on health grounds would be permitted back on the market.

Decision-making about food quality issues would be taken away from national and regional governments and put in the hands of the Codex Alimentarius Commission, set up jointly by the World Health Organisation and the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation, which do not represent the wider consumer interest.

The signatories to your May 22 letter are right that the Gatt reforms should be of concern to all nations and individuals, but no one should be beguiled by their attempt to masquerade self-interest as benevolence. Rather, we should be ensuring that consumer and environmental concerns are given top priority.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HILDYARD
(Co-Editor, The Ecologist),
M. IQBAL ASARIA
(Third World Network (Europe)),
NIGEL DUDLEY (Soil Association),
DAVID KING (Genetic Forum),
TIM LANG (European Safe Food),
MICHAEL O'CONNOR
(Coronary Prevention Group),
KEVIN WATKINS (Catholic Institute for International Relations),
The Ecologist,
Station Road,
Sturminster Newton, Dorset,
May 23.

Lloyd's answers back

From the Chairman of Lloyd's

Sir, Given the hype which preceded the article, "Lloyd's goes up the spout" (Bernard Levin, May 24), the event itself was an anti-climax. It was no more than second-hand, regurgitated inaccuracies.

Mr Levin informs us that Lloyd's will be announcing an overall loss of £150 million in respect of the 1988 underwriting year. I shall, with deep regret, announce the correct figure on June 26 at our annual general meeting.

According to his article, Lloyd's is responsible for the cost of the Savings and Loans debacle in the United States. I assume he can substantiate this statement because he must be the only person alive who can.

He makes no reference to the fact that the 1988 underwriting year is

the first year of loss which Lloyd's has suffered since 1967, nor does he mention that over the past 23 years members of Lloyd's have been paid £3.6 billion, including two record payouts in 1989 and 1990 of £650 million and £500 million respectively.

Mr Levin seems to imply that Lloyd's carries the whole world's insurance losses. Hasn't he noticed the published results of the composite insurance companies in the UK who have declared underwriting losses collectively of £1 billion in their latest accounts? And if Mr Levin had himself as yet discovered America, he would find even worse results there.

Why is he surprised by this? Didn't he notice the wind blowing a little harder than usual in October 1987 or January 1990 or, for that matter, the long series of natural and

Sea-level view of Bismarck's end

From Commander J. D. L. Repard, RN (retired)

Sir, I watched Commander James Stewart-Moore's Swordfish attack on the Sheffield and Bismarck ("The lucky miss that sank the Bismarck", Life and Times, May 22). Nothing can detract from the courage of pilots who flew their ancient "Stringbags" so close to heavily armed ships. He tells his tale of that day from their point of view. There is more to it.

As a midshipman I controlled air defence. Through very large binoculars, constantly doused in heavy spray, I could see Bismarck 12 miles ahead. We knew our torpedo bombers were on their way but we didn't see them until they suddenly tumbled like falling leaves out of the low clouds. Expecting the Luftwaffe from France, we were ready to shoot. I shouted to the guns not to fire, and we (just) didn't.

It was clear that at least two torpedoes they dropped could not miss. They exploded so close as they entered our magnetic field that we were drenched by the water they threw up. One Stringbag — I had thought until I read his article that it was the CO's! — dropped his "fish" on our starboard bow and signalled "Sorry for the kipper" in Morse by Aldis lamp as he struggled slowly at the bridge height across our bows. The captain, Charles Larcombe, was purple with rage. There was much (relieved) comment about "fly boys who wouldn't recognise their own mothers".

We knew the next attack would contact us before going on to Bismarck. They flew very low, bucking about in the turbulence, bouncing off the tremendous swell. We pointed our arms towards Bismarck and waved to each other: so much for sea/air communications. They teetered heavily up into the scudding clouds.

A few minutes later vast flashes from Bismarck's guns silhouetted a

Swordfish and lit up the smoke and spray which dulled her outline. I cleaned the binoculars. Another aircraft was very low near her. There was a big column of water, briefly doused at its base near her stern.

I couldn't see much of the ship for gunsmoke and spray but thought she was hit. It took two or three minutes to see she had turned. We had closed her at about 60 mph and were much too close when she fired a main armament broadside which straddled us — brilliant shooting from a damaged ship.

We fired, too, as we turned, making smoke and heeling heavily under full wheel at top speed. There were casualties down aft. The halfords on the forecast were cut by shell splinters. Severed electric cables produced a shower of sparks. One jagged chunk of very hot shell hit the solid stand supporting my binoculars. It fell into a puddle and hissed at my feet.

Bismarck was sunk next day, while Ark Royal's Stringbags were airborne again with torpedoes which were not needed. The Ark steamed as slowly as possible into the full gale, the after-end of the flight deck rising and falling about 60 ft as the first aircraft approached to land, carrying its torpedo. Water was breaking over her bows and sloshing along the flight deck.

The batsman ordered the pilot of the Swordfish, hanging over the deck like a hoverfly, to cut his engine and be immediately dived for cover, anticipating an explosion. The plane hit the deck and slid sideways into the netting, pursued by ground crew struggling to grab it. The other aircraft were told to ditch their fish before landing.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID L. REPAR, JR.
Suite J, The Red and White House,
113 High Street,
Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire,
May 22.

'Militant' expulsions

From the Editor of Militant

Sir, Contrary to the suggestions in your reports of May 23, the number of expulsions of Militant supporters from the Labour Party has not grown rapidly.

In 1981 Denis Healey promised the expulsion of thousands of Militant supporters. To date just over 150 have been expelled, most of them on the flimsiest of evidence, where they have committed no offence other than support socialist ideas. Militant supporters have, in effect, been expelled more deeply into the struggles of the working-class communities and their standing has increased many times over.

Over the last six years, according to our adversaries, we have been "marginalised", "finished" and "made an irrelevance". Yet we are still here and going from strength to strength, playing no small part in the defeat of the poll tax and the marginalisation of Margaret Thatcher. The SDP has gone from being the "next government" to oblivion, and the Labour Party could, ironically, win the next election because of the campaign of mass non-payment of the poll tax. This was led by Militant supporters who were subsequently expelled in a touching show of gratitude from the Labour Party.

Yours sincerely,
PETER TAAFFE,
3-13 Hepscott Road, E9.

Somnolent sermons

From Canon Emeritus A. C. Addison Smith

Sir, Somnolent sermons (Mr Gillum's letter, May 17) are really nothing new. The Bible tells us so. Holy scripture records in the Acts of the Apostles, 20:7-12, that Paul preached a farewell sermon at Troas:

Paul addressed them... and went on speaking until midnight. A youth named Eutychus, who was sitting on the window-ledge, grew more and more sleepy as Paul went on talking. At last he was completely overcome by sleep, and fell from the third storey to the ground. He was picked up as dead. Paul went down... and said to them, "Stop this commotion, there is still life in him"... and they took the boy away alive and were immensely comforted (New English Bible).

O, St Eutychus, remember and pray for me, and all who speak from the pulpit; as we remember you.

Yours sincerely,
A. C. ADDISON SMITH,
5 Tierney Court, Riverside,
Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

From Mr Derek J. Gordon

Sir, Today's letter from a Wykehamist of the 1940s reminds me of the moment, during a long and boring sermon in Eton College Chapel in the 30s, when the preacher exhorted the 600 boys "Never forget to say your early morning prayers and your late night prayers". Whereupon one of the boys, a foreign count, took a large white handkerchief out of his pocket, held it up and tied a knot in it. I believe that the count lost his long leave that summer half in consequence.

Yours respectfully,
DEREK J. GORDON,
30 Redcliffe Square, SW10,
May 17.

From Mr James F. Priestley

Sir, It was, I think, a different chaplain at Winchester whose opening words to the "new men" in Chaney on their first Sunday were: "Few of us can deny ourselves the intellectual pleasure of speculating on the precise nature of the Pentecostal Gift".

Yours faithfully,
JAMES F. PRIESTLEY,
Upton Manor, Upton,
Nr Andover, Hampshire.

Gazza and the law

From Mr Kenneth Mullan

Sir, Suggestions that the referee in this year's FA Cup Final owed a duty to Mr Paul Gascoigne to protect him from damaging himself and others (letters, May 22, 25) do not appear to have a strong foundation in law. Although the rule has been subject to exceptions, it is well recognised that there can be no liability in negligence for an omission or failure to act to prevent one person from inflicting harm on another or on themselves.

The rule has been vigorously applied in situations where an individual is intent on injuring him or herself. A number of well documented cases have shown that there can be no liability in negligence for failure to prevent self-inflicted injury, even where that injury results in death.

It is interesting, however, to note that the cases in which this rule has been discussed have involved suicide or attempted suicide. There would be many who would suggest that Mr Gascoigne's reckless tackle has resulted in commercial suicide. Nevertheless, it is submitted that no court would find for Mr Gascoigne or the board of Tottenham Hotspur plc in an action for negligence against the referee.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH MULLAN,
University of Ulster,
Department of Public
Administration and Legal Studies,
Newtownabbey, Co Antrim.

Charities under fire

From the Chief Charity Commissioner

Sir, Concern has been expressed in your columns (report, May 10; letter, May 22) that the decision of the Charity Commissioners to curb Oxfam's political activity implies a prohibition on charities generally from engaging in political activity at all, or from tackling the root causes of the problems their beneficiaries face.

Such concern is based on a misunderstanding of the law and of its application in the Oxfam case. It is not the intention of the law, nor the business of the courts and the Charity Commission, to stanch the contribution of charities to public life, without which we would all be the poorer. Charities have a wealth of knowledge and experience to bring to bear on the solution of problems and not solely on their treatment.

That aspect of their work must however be exclusively on behalf of their beneficiaries and in pursuit of their objects. It must be ancillary to their main work, and cannot be allowed to develop into a broad

Trees for the wood

From Mr A. C. Driver

Sir, John North (May 21) complains about thousands of unwanted self-sown tree seedlings.

Here we have the willingness to plant trees, enough space to do it, the enthusiasm, 250 willing volunteers, the patience to wait for the trees to grow, the time to wait to see the results (our youngest pupils are seven years old) and the tools to do the job. All we lack are the trees, and I have written to Mr North to tell him so.

I am, Sir, etc.,
CHRIS DRIVER (Headteacher),
Black Cross Junior School,
Moor Road, Millom, Cumbria,
May 22.

From Mr Derek Thackray
Sir, On my compost heap I have the fast-decaying remains of the (approximately) 750,000 sycamore self-sown seedlings from 13 mature trees so far removed this spring from my one-acre garden. Underneath are the elder and beech seedlings, unnumbered.

What Mr John North calls bounty today in his seven acres sounds to me like gross mismanagement by nature who, here, in one year never sows less than ten times the harvest in Mr North's garden.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK THACKRAY,
Gresham House,
Castle Acre,
King's Lynn, Norfolk,
May 21.

political campaign, even more so if such campaigning is fuelled by a pre-determined ideology. It is clear in law, and of considerable importance to the public, that charities should not become political organisations, whether covertly or through the sheer moral energy of their trustees and supporters.

The Charity Commission stands to protect charities from failure, abuse and interference, and thereby to uphold public confidence in their integrity and accountability. Trustees will find the commissioners as energetic in upholding their role in society and their responsibility to promote the interests of their beneficiaries as we are determined that they should fulfil those responsibilities within the law.

Yours faithfully,
ROBIN GUTHRIE,
Chief Charity Commissioner,
Charity Commission,
57/60 Haymarket, SW1.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071 782 5046).

Threat to Prague

From Mr John Harris

Sir, Mr Graham Warren (May 16) is right that "Prague needs [planners'] skills if it is to retain its historical fabric", but he cannot be unaware that Prague is now a magnet for every architect, planner, builder, developer and investor, many demonstrably anxious to make a profit at the expense of a city as beautiful as Venice or Florence. Thus it was right for the Prince of Wales to give a warning (report, May 8).

Prague's defences against bad design and shoddy conservation are weakened by Czechoslovakia's desperate need for western and Far Eastern investment. In the end this is going to determine all. Unfortunately, Czechoslovakia's small cadre of preservationists, and those in charge of historical monuments, are overwhelmed by the scale of the problem, with at least 29,000 monuments in decay.

Behind Prague's Týn Church, for example, is the Ungelt, an enclosed square of ravishing houses from medieval to late baroque times. Their beauty in decay makes the pulse race. Two have been restored, for a hotel I believe, with an insensitivity that is horrifying.

This disease will creep across Prague. There is no cause for even the slightest complacency.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HARRIS,
16 Limerston Street, SW10.

Funds for disabled

From Mr Michael Turner

Sir, The announcement (Partiment, May 22) by Nicholas Scott, minister for the disabled, of a replacement body for the Independent Living Fund which will only support existing beneficiaries simply builds inequity into the community-care system. Once this system comes into operation in 1993, people living in the same locality with exactly the same needs will receive different support.

Those who had qualified for payments from the fund will receive direct payments to organise their own care. Newly disabled people, or those who had not had the opportunity to apply to the fund, will only be able to use the local social services.

A far better response would be to develop direct payments to allow disabled people to organise their own assistance as part of the overall move to community care.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL TURNER,
Greater London Association for Disabled People,
336 Brixton Road, SW9.

TONY WHITE



Ringed out: watched by two costumed stewards, Alan Regin and Andrew Wilby, the Australian and New Zealand team take part in an international contest at St Lawrence Jewry, part of the centenary celebrations

Ringers celebrate centenary quietly

By ROBIN YOUNG

A HUNDRED members of the Central Council of Church Bellringers were given a pull on Westminster Abbey's bells yesterday as part of celebrations to mark the council's centenary.

The results of their efforts were somewhat muffled by the protective cladding around the bells and the sheets and scaffolding encasing the bell tower during restoration work. That did not lessen the thrill, the ringers insisted, after ringing their Cambridge Surprise Royals, Grandsire Caters and Stedman Caters,

because it sounded splendid in the ringing room even if visitors to the abbey were scarcely aware that the bells were being rung.

Westminster's ten bells, though far from historic (they were cast in 1973), have rarely rung among bellringers, since they are usually the exclusive preserve of the abbey's own ringers, recruited from the elite members of the Ancient Society of College Youths, a London society who regularly practise in the City of London's twelve bell churches. There was also an international strik-

ing contest yesterday at St Lawrence Jewry between teams of ringers from the four countries of the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, Italy, America, South Africa and Zimbabwe.

Today the celebrations continue at St Mary-le-Bow, Cheapside, with a challenge competition between previous winners of the ringers' annual 12-bell striking competition. The central council, representing local bellringers' associations with more than 20,000 members, holds its centenary meeting at Guildhall tomorrow.

Computers help bring the Sphinx back to life

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

COMPUTER-generated models are helping Egyptologists to visualise how the Great Sphinx at Giza appeared 3,200 years ago.

Photogrammetric recording combined with co-ordinates plotted on some 2.6 million points over the monument's surface enable a series of three-dimensional images to be generated and manipulated. The project, directed by Mark Lehner of the Oriental Institute at Chicago university, has taken 13 years, coinciding with the campaign to restore the Sphinx, which is being eroded by pollution.

The statue, with the body of a lion and the head of the Pharaoh Khafre (Chephren) was created around 2500 BC, close to the ruler's pyramid at Giza. A quarry pit used to obtain construction material had a protruding core left within it, which was sculpted into the "living image of the sun god", according to Mr Lehner.

The scheme was never finished, and the Sphinx became partly buried in sand. About 1400 BC a son of Amenhotep II had a vision at the site, in which the Sphinx prophesied that he would free the god from the sand and become king. The youth succeeded as Thutmose IV and uncovered the statue, encasing the weathered body in limestone blocks which were painted in red, blue and yellow. Mr Lehner believes that Thutmose also erected a statue of his father in front of the Sphinx.

The dream was inscribed on

a granite tablet set between the front paws, which in the following century was flanked by two stone slabs with inscriptions of Ramesses II (now in the Louvre). These were discovered in 1818 by Giovanni Battista Belzoni, with fragments of the beard; one of the pieces, for many years in the British Museum, and now for the first time on public display, was used to reconstruct the length and shape of the bearded head in Mr Lehner's computer model.

The face, damaged on the original stone at least the 15th century, was taken from a statue of Khafre in the Cairo Museum. "With the face of Khafre, the Sphinx came alive," Mr Lehner says.

The computer database is also being used to monitor the restoration process, although the extent of recent deterioration has been overblown by the press, Mr Lehner believes.

Source: *National Geographic* 179 No. 4: 32-39.



Weathered: the Great Sphinx with the Great Pyramid

Minoan palace identified in Crete

A NEW Minoan palace has been identified in Crete, dating back to the Bronze Age over three thousand years ago. Situated on a hilltop at the Minoan town of Gournia, the palace is the smallest of the half dozen so far known (Norman Hammond writes).

The building itself has been known since the beginning of this century, when Gournia was excavated by Miss Harriet Boyd of Pennsylvania university. Sir Arthur Evans's excavations at Knossos, the largest Minoan palace in Crete, were taking place at the same time some 35 miles to the west.

Miss Boyd identified the Gournia acropolis building as a palace, noting parallels with the Knossos and Phaistos palaces, but most scholars dismissed her identification because of its small size compared with the major sites: it is only one tenth the size of Knossos.

Dr Jeffrey Scales of North Carolina university has now endorsed her judgment, after an exhaustive scrutiny of the building and the extent to which it replicates the characteristics of Minoan palaces. "The palace has an overriding economic function, serving as a storehouse, a manufacturing and redistribution centre, and at the same time an administrative centre for its surrounding territory. It provides a residence for the ruling elite and a place for sumptuous entertaining. Perhaps above all, it functions as a religious centre: it incorporates various shrines and serves as the location for religious ceremonies that attracted large numbers of people," Dr Scales says.

The objects found in the 1901-3 excavations and aspects of the architecture and planning of the Gournia building document palatial functions, he says: several rooms on both the basement and the main floors can be identified as storerooms, probably for agricultural produce such as grain, oil and olives, and perhaps also for raw materials such as copper ingots and bales of wool. One room in the building seems to have acted as a control point, monitoring access to these stores.

Several areas of workshops can also be identified. There is good evidence for reception and banqueting areas, and both architecture and cult objects attest to religious functions, Dr Scales believes. A south wing was added for ritual purposes, containing four shrines, while the west portico was a tripartite shrine simulating a peak sanctuary, like one at Knossos. In the public court was a large stone slab which may have served for bull-sacrifice.

Source: *American Journal of Archaeology* 95: 17-78.

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BIRTHS

COOPER - On May 24th to Fiona (née Davis) and John, at the Harlow Hospital, Barnet, a daughter, Helena. Tel: 01-453 8888.

COOPER-KING - On May 12th, to Zena and Martin, a son, Max Alexander, at the Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead. Tel: 01-263 8888.

SHAWLIM - On May 20th to Liz (née Galloway) and Stuart, at the Royal Free Hospital, a son, Alexander. Tel: 01-263 8888.

WHYPER - On May 24th to John and Susan, at the Royal Free Hospital, a son, Thomas. Tel: 01-263 8888.

DEATHS

BUDD - On May 18th, after a long illness, Mabel Meredith (née Budd), 84, of 10, Royal Victoria Road, Middlesbrough. Tel: 01-263 8888.

NEWSON - On May 22nd, after a long illness, Mabel Meredith (née Newson), 84, of 10, Royal Victoria Road, Middlesbrough. Tel: 01-263 8888.

MACNISH PORTER - On May 23rd, 1991, Jeremy George Porter, 50, of 10, Royal Victoria Road, Middlesbrough. Tel: 01-263 8888.

TRIPPSON - On May 18th, after a long illness, Mabel Meredith (née Trippson), 84, of 10, Royal Victoria Road, Middlesbrough. Tel: 01-263 8888.

GRIFITH-WILLIAMS - On May 23rd, 1991, after a long illness, Mabel Meredith (née Griffith-Williams), 84, of 10, Royal Victoria Road, Middlesbrough. Tel: 01-263 8888.

SHILLING - On May 23rd, 1991, after a long illness, Mabel Meredith (née Shilling), 84, of 10, Royal Victoria Road, Middlesbrough. Tel: 01-263 8888.

TITLEY - On May 23rd, 1991, after a long illness, Mabel Meredith (née Titley), 84, of 10, Royal Victoria Road, Middlesbrough. Tel: 01-263 8888.

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Banquet with a dash of salt

DONALD COOPER

Suzanne Johnston, Claudio Desderi, Amanda Roocroft, Kurt Streit and Jake Gardner on deck in *Così fan tutte*

OPERA

Così fan tutte Glyndebourne

GLYNDEBOURNE has rarely seen a vessel as trim and immediately appealing as the S.S. Napoli, the cruise ship on which Trevor Nunn sets his first and hugely successful *Così fan tutte*. The passengers who come aboard during the overture include a party from the Muslim end of the Balkans, which will make the Albanian disguise of the brother officers, Ferrando and Guglielmo, that much more credible later. The skies above are cloudy, a warning that this is not going to be a totally sunlit voyage, and they remain that way.

Mozart has been updated to the first quarter of the century, precise date carefully unspecified, and the transport — if a few awkward references to the likes of Mesmer can be ignored — functions as smoothly as the Napoli's engines. It is a period for flirtations and shipboard romances. And there is full rein for Maria Björnson to design ravishing costumes in pastel shades for both sexes and let her sets rove from the promenade deck to the stateroom which two sisters as well-heeled as Fiordiligi and Dorabella would expect to occupy.

Visually it is so bewitching that it could have turned into a Coward frivolity like *Sail Away*. Or indeed the ship could have taken over the show as the train did in *On the Twentieth Century*. But Nunn is ever mindful that this is Mozart and not a musical: those clouds carry warnings. Don Alfonso may be for calm seas as he consolingly cuddles the sisters during "Solve sia il vento", but he knows the trip is going to be a bumpy one.

Trevor Nunn has nearly all his fun in the first act. The officers in Albanian disguise clamber back on board past the portholes and in the finale the sybarites on the sun deck

take not a blind bit of notice as poison is swallowed. But most of Act II is in deadly earnest, when pretensions of fidelity fade at the prospect of an enticing fiancé. It is taking a risk with Glyndebourne's audience, reputed to like its chorales after the supper interval, but it works marvellously well.

All is summed up in Fiordiligi's two arias. In a performance which is going to add several cubits to her already considerable artistic stature, Amanda Roocroft is half joking in "Come scoglio". Her hands shape the rock of her steadfastness and her total immutability before the Albanians she clearly regards as uncomprehending.

"Per pietà" in the second act is a totally different matter and becomes a searing aria of personal crisis. Both are sung with a youthful sheen in the voice, decorated with taste and sup-

ported by a sturdy chest register. Here, at the start of her career, Amanda Roocroft has precociously absorbed Mozart style. The acting is just as skilled, with a change in a price from a puppyish pout to a disdainful glare.

Not many Dorabellas would stand a chance by her side. Suzanne Johnston at least has the advantage of physical similarity and there is plenty of time for the audience to study this as the sisters in deshabille chatter about boys and clothes. She pushed too hard in Act I to try and close the vocal gap and was much happier later when Dorabella decides that submission is the easiest form of self-defence.

At this point sisterly love weakens fast, but not quite as fast as the code of brotherly conduct between officers. Kurt Streit's Ferrando, rightly allowed

his full complement of arias, was as ferocious in his hour of betrayal ("Tradito, schernito") as he was mellifluous in the previous act. Jake Gardner's polished Guglielmo took a more relaxed view of things. A Don Alfonso in the making, perhaps.

In that role Claudio Desderi was a grizzled observer of youthful folly, carefully understated in word and action. He left it to Gianna Rolandi's domineering Despina to make sure that even if the Napoli does not move far up the Italian coast, at least the emotional journey will be a revealing one. Simon Rattle's Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment has everything going for it apart from its name: superb playing aimed directly at the senses in one of Glyndebourne's five-star evenings.

JOHN HIGGINS

DANCE

Prince Albert's Vision Royal College of Music

THIS is the second year for trying to realise the Prince Consort's dream, in the wake of the Great Exhibition, of co-operation between educational establishments of different kinds set up in South Kensington. There is no student choreographer this year, unfortunately, but for 16 dancers from the English National Ballet School and 18 musicians from the Royal College of Music there was the chance to practise their already considerable skills in front of an audience. For one student composer and half a dozen students of the Royal College of Art there was also the opportunity to try their hands in creative ways.

John Cooney's score for *Bull Dance* is in a modern idiom but based on his interest in the melodic and rhythmic patterns of medieval music. He will know another time that his climaxes for brass and percussion would work more powerfully if he did not try to sustain them so long. It might help

also to have more inventive and purposeful choreography than James Superville (a dancer with English National Ballet) provided.

The other new work is *Variations*, a set of dances by Michael Pink to music by Philip Feeney, written for piano and sounding, in an orchestrated version, rather like 1950s Lennox Berkeley. Pink's dances to this are bland but sufficient to show off the already professional skills of most of his cast of a dozen young men and women. Anita Benckzo's setting of tall panels, decorated with low relief patterns, is ingeniously varied by opening or closing one or more of the uprights and by changes of lighting from red to green.

In the revival of André Prokoviev's *Gershwin* ballet, *That Certain Feeling*, the young men made a brave shot at swagger and poise while the women seemed to find elegance easier to achieve.

Thanks must go to Reginald Homes Ltd for making the collaboration possible and for scholarships to selected students at each of the institutions involved.

JOHN PERCIVAL

CONCERT

Hariprasad Chaurasia Queen Elizabeth Hall

THE entire audience of the Queen Elizabeth Hall rose on Friday night and stood for one minute in silent prayer for the soul of Rajiv Gandhi and for his family. And then, the first rag, Hariprasad Chaurasia, north Indian master of the bamboo flute, chose *Rag Marva*, and his *alap* set the mood of mourning which was, inevitably, to dominate the first half of the evening.

Reluctantly confined by the two-and-a-half hours or so of Western concert-giving (just about enough for most Indian musicians to begin to get into the mood of things), Chaurasia created a compact, 40-minute *alap-jor-gat*, complete with a nine-beat and then eight-beat *tal*. The setting up of the *Rag*, played solo with accompanying drones from the tambura, circled round what approximated to a drooping minor third, rising to the longer sigh of a fifth, soaring to the octave, then cascading in coils of improv-

sation and self-limitation to descent. As the *gat*, the "pace" or "movement" of the piece, became more clearly defined, the singers of Madan Mishra, the tabla player making his South Bank debut, pulsed into the rhythmic virtuosity of the *tal*. Dance grew out of mourning, play out of dance, as a complex fretwork of patterns flared-tongued, swirled and darted between the singers' movements.

After the interval came *Rag Jor*, with two compositions in the 16-beat *tal*. More serene, this *rag*'s melody, similarly serene, oscillated over a bridge of what, to Western ears, would correspond to a major mode. When the *tal* began, Chaurasia and Mishra between them seemed to be working towards the very apotheosis of delighted play. Testing imitation and extraordinarily imaginative improvisation within the long 16-beat passage led to a "koda" of mischievous virtuosity. The movement of lip and breath was in an instant metamorphosed into the pulsing of finger and palm; life was re-born; the evening had just begun.

HILARY FINCH

THEATRE

The Good Sisters Crucible, Sheffield

COCKING a snook at the guidelines offered to apprentice dramatists, the French-Canadian Michel Tremblay wrote his first play for a cast of 15 women. This probably explains why the work, first performed in French and then in English two decades ago, has taken so long to appear in this country. Tremblay's plays have become known over here by way of fringe theatre, which naturally favours two-handers (*Hosanna*, *Sorcery*) and Mark Brickman's production may be the first Tremblay over here to be given the main-house setting it merits.

Uproar greeted its Montreal premiere. Establishment persons considered that plays should not be written about such vulgar, greedy women who know no better than to speak in *jargon*, the working-class vernacular of Montreal's East End. But like so many plays greeted with outrage, Tremblay's boisterous, rough-speaking creation jerked his country's theatre into a period of high activity. Noel Greig translates the *jargon* into Yorkshire while keeping the original Canadian names of the characters, resulting in some cross-cultural quirks like, *Madame Broquette*. "But these oddities are rather endearing and the raucous, punchy slang Greig uses, along with the occasional gentleness, give vigour and thrill to the dialogue."

The central character is Germaine, played by the ebullient Linda Polan,

who has won a million green stamps and invites sisters and friends round to help her stick them in the books. To different degrees all the married women are obsessed with the newspaper competitions that offer an escape from a drab life into the gaudy surroundings of free Chinese velvet paintings and porcelain poodle doorstops. In snappy dialogue and self-revealing monologue, presented like arias while the other characters carry on oblivious with their lick 'n' stick, the women show themselves to be hugely disappointed in life: the unmarried long for men — Katharine Barker's *Dea-Neiges* busses with love for her brush salesman — while the wives fear and despise their husbands and refuse to understand their children.

One thing they all share is obedience to the killjoy pronouncements of

the Catholic church. Through the discovery that one of their number makes secret visits to a nightclub, Tremblay shows what their religious devotion owes to sexual envy, and how powerless it is before greed.

The play's style is one of naturalism elevated into short scenes of choric chant. Brickman fills the stage with unobtrusive movement from the first, neatly orchestrating eruptions of force, like the mother-in-law who literally bites the hands that feed her; and when the women are putting their errand sister on trial, or singing the frozen "Ode to Bingo", he marshals them as if they were playground gangs or ritual dancers. Deft, inventive and surreal.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Arts features, page 13

NEW RELEASES

FOREVER MARY: Bad things in a Roman reform school: similar material, but vigorously played by a cast slung from the streets by director Marco Fies. National Film Theatre (071-622 3323).

GUILTY BY SUSPICION (15): Hollywood witch-hunt tale — muted as drama, but delectably acted. Robert De Niro, Annette Bening. Caramore: Fulham Road (071-370 2333). Shattbury Avenue (071-436 5851). Screen on the 18 (071-436 3363). Whiteleys (071-752 3303/3324).

LIFE IS CHEAP... BUT TOILET PAPER IS EXPENSIVE: Wayne Wang's whimsical tour through the madness of Hong Kong, part documentary, part send-up. Rude, beautiful, witty. ICA Cinema (071-530 3547).

MERMAIDS (15): Synthetic comedy of family life. Winona Ryder appeals, pressing Greg Kinnear on the nerves. Director, Richard Benjamin. Odeon West End (071-930 5252/7615).

PROBLEM CHILD (PG): Hilariously crude comedy about a delinquent seven-year-old in a charming performance by Michael Oliver. Caramore: Fulham Road (071-370 2333). Empire (071-497 9858). Whiteleys (071-752 3303/3324).

ROSENCRANTZ & GUILDENSTERN ARE DEAD (PG): Tom Stoppard directs his word-spinning play. Attractive visuals, though audience play eventually sets in. Gary Oldman, Tim Roth, Richard Dinkley, Cate Blanchett. Caramore: Fulham Road (071-370 2333). Odeon West End (071-436 5851). Gate (071-727 4043).

WHITE FANG (PG): Terence Davis' version of Jack London's novel about a boy and his wolf-dog in the Klondike.

BLACK SNOW: Robin Bailey's sublimely funny Stashevsky figure in a Soviet-style farce. Moscow Central (071-628 2522). Tivoli-Wend. 7.30pm, mat. tomorrow, 2.30pm, 14.00pm.

GARMEN JONES: Classic production of the Hammerstein-Balshoff musical, packed with plot. Odeon, Victoria Road, SE1 (071-223 7616). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 12.00pm.

DANCING AT LUGHANNA: Sean Patten's clever award-winning comedy play set in 1530s Donegal. Phoenix, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-857 1043). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Wed, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 12.00pm.

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNERS: Simon Carter in average, French-boulevard farce. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-435 2653). Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.30pm, mat. Wed, Sat, 3pm, 5pm, 12.00pm.

EDWARD 7: Simon Russell Beale and Ciarán Hinds outdo each other as the gay king and his vicious enemy. The Pit, Barbican Centre, St. Paul's, EC2 (071-433 8571). Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm.

THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTOR: Timothy Spall splendidly yachting in splendidly grand revival. Greenwich, County Hall, SE10 (071-857 7251). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Sat, 2.30pm, 12.00pm. Final week.

THE HOMECOMING: Warren Mitchell and others embraced by Cherie Lunghi in Peter Hall's Pinter revival. Caramore, Fulham Road, W1 (071-370 2333). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat. Wed, Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 12.00pm. Final week.

KING LEAR: Perspective production by Nicholas Hytner with John Wood in superb voice. Barbican (as above), Tonight, tomorrow, 7.30pm, 22.00pm.

THE MISER: Charles Kay, Simon Broom in new production. National (Olivier) (as left), Tonight, tomorrow, 7.15pm, mat. tomorrow, 3pm, 12.00pm.

CYRANO: David Bentley's new three-act work for the Royal Ballet dwells on the comic aspects of Rostand's play, with a bold interpretation of the main character. Tonight's cast includes Ian McKellen (as the poet), Wilma Dancos, Stuart Cassidy and Stephen Wicks. Barry Wordworth conducts. Royal Ballet, Covent Garden, London, WC2 (071-424 1066/1911), 7.30pm.

JOEL JACKSON: The versatile musician-songwriter, promoting his new album, *Laughing and Lying*. Hamamstein Odeon, Queen Caroline Street, London W6 (071-748 4081). 7.30pm.

SHIRLEY BARRIE: The queen of easy-listening continues to belt out those James Bond theme tunes. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (071-623 9988), 8pm.

JACQUELINE DU PRE MEMORIAL FUND CONCERT: A concert tribute by the Kensington Symphony Orchestra under Paul Keesee, giving the first performance of Paul Keesee's *Release* for Orchestra, together with works by Rachmaninov and Prokofiev. Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-622 6001), 7.45pm.

MOZART TO MARTINUS: Nicola Chiaromonte and his choir Timothy Boulton (members of the Domus Piano Quartet) are joined by soloists Christian Heister and Karsten Jørgensen performing lesser-known works by Jørgensen, Ivan Javits, Poles Henryk Wieniawski and Russian Anton

CINEMA GUIDE

Goff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol Δ) on release across the country.

Director, Randal Klosser. Cannon Oxford Street (071-636 0310). Odeon Kensington (071-602 5545). Swiss Cottage (071-722 5553). Warner (071-436 0911). Whiteleys (071-752 3303/3324).

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Answers from page 20

ZOPHAR

(c) Zophar the Naamathite, the third and most simple-minded of Job's comforters. The comforters that all Job's sufferings are a mystery that will be cleared up one day. "Know therefore that God exacteth of thee less than thine iniquity deserveth."

GASPAR

(a) One of the three Magi or Wise Men of the East who brought gifts to the infant Saviour. Tradition calls them Melchior, Gaspar and Balthazar. Gaspar means "father white one". He gave frankincense in token of divinity.

MESSACH

(c) One of the three friends of Daniel who were thrown into a fiery furnace by command of Nebuchadnezzar. He was originally called Mishael. His two chums were Abednego and Shadrach.

HADAD

(b) An Edomite refugee from the razza conducted by Joab. He fled to Egypt, and married the Pharaoh's sister. When David died, he returned to Edom, and was used by God to bury Solomon when he was losing favour with God.

ENTERTAINMENTS

OPERA & BALLET

COLISEUM 071 636 3161 or 071 400 8588. *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. 7.30pm, 10.00pm, 12.00pm.

ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA No Pat Tonight. Wed 7.30pm. PETER GRIMES. Thu 7.30pm. TITON OF ATHENS. Fri 7.30pm.

GLYNDEBOURNE FESTIVAL Opera with *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. Wed 8.00pm. *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. Thu 8.00pm. *Die Entführung aus dem Serail*. Fri 8.00pm.

TELEVISION AND RADIO 19

BEC

6.00 *Cosfax Pages*
7.00 *News, weather and regional news*
7.15 *Fairy Tales, Goldilocks and the Three Bears and Rumpelstiltskin* as told by actor John Rhys Davies 7.30 *Timeless Tales*. The story of *Rapunzel*
8.00 *News, regional news and weather* 8.15 *Touche! Turtle* (f) 8.20 *Lassie* (f) 8.45 *Orville* (f)
9.00 *News, regional news and weather* 9.05 *Defenders of the Earth* (f) 9.25 *Ipsa Facta*. The first of five programmes in which children look at things of interest beginning with the advertising industry (f)
9.30 *News, regional news and weather* 10.05 *Playdays*. Today's story is *Louis and the Night Sky* by Nicola Morgan 10.25 *Pinky's House*. Animation (f)
10.40 *Bank Holiday Grandstand* introduced by Bob Wilson. 10.45 *Cricknet*: the third and final match for the Texaco Trophy between England and the West Indies. The commentators at Lord's are Brian Barwell, David Gower, Ian Botham, Peter Alliss, Bruce Critchley, 12.55 *Regional news and weather*
1.00 *News and weather* 1.15 *Neighbours*. (Ceeftex)
1.40 *Bank Holiday Grandstand* continues with further coverage of the one-day game at Lord's (continues on BBC2) 3.00 *Golf*: the final round of the Volvo PGA championship from Wentworth. The commentating team is Steve Baker, Peter Alliss, Bruce Critchley, Clive Clark, Alex Hay and Mike Hugheshead
5.05 *News and weather*
5.15 *Regional news and weather*
5.20 *Tom and Jerry*. Two cartoons
5.35 *News* (f). (Ceeftex)
6.00 *SOS Number One Awards 1991*. Philip Schofield hosts the awards for children's favourite television programmes and personalities for which the BBC has teamed up with the Stars Organisation for Spastics. Prince Edward will present a special award to someone who has shown courage in overcoming a disability or who has helped to overcome a disability. Categories include best pop act, factual programme, sports personality and senior man and woman. The guest presenters include singer Kim Appleby, comedian Vic Reeves and *Darling Buds* of *My Favourite* Catherine Zeta Jones. (Ceeftex)
7.00 *Film*: *Seven Years in Tibet*. Hosted by Michael J. Fox firmly on the film star map is a lighthearted comedy pleasantly free from homiletic special effects and extreme blood-letting. Scott Howard (Fox) is an average high school student who becomes his ownerness until he discovers that he is the latest in a long line of reincarnations. Sixty years ago he was a head when they discover that the innocent passers-by, Howard is delighted to find himself the centre of attention. Directed by Rod Denney. (Ceeftex)
8.30 *Birds of a Feather*: Mike. Sparkey streetwise comedy about two South London sisters whose husbands are in prison. Tracey (Linda Robson) is disgusted by Sharon's (Pauline Collins) slovenly ways as they are both in the head when they discover that the house has become infested with mice. (f). (Ceeftex)
9.00 *News with Michael Buerk*. (Ceeftex) *Regional news and weather*



Fighting for clues: Dan Aykroyd and Tom Hanks (9.30pm)

9.20 **Film:** *Dragnet* (1987). This tongue-in-cheek updating of the classic American crime series of the Fifties was co-written by and stars Den Aykroyd alongside Tom Hanks as two policemen investigating a series of bizarre robberies. (Presumably these are a series of cards bearing the name PAGAN (Pagan, Agnès, Goodwin and Normandy) left at the scene of the crime. If this were not bad enough Detective Sergeant Joe Friday (Aykroyd) must also deal with his unconventional new partner, Pop Streschek (Hanks). Debra Coleman and Christopher Plummer are excellent as a porn king and evangelist respectively and *M*A*S*H's* Jerry Morgan, who played Friday's aidekick in the original series, is here promoted to the rank of Captain. Directed by Tom Menikoff. (Coctex)

11.10 **The All Star Swing Festival.** Guests from the big band and swing era including Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald and Dizzy Gillespie perform at New York's Lincoln Centre (7). Northern Ireland: Bringing It All Back Home

12.00 **Bellison.** See *Searchers* visits Albuquerque in New Mexico, acknowledged as the bellion capital of the world (7). Northern Ireland: The All Star Swing Festival 12.50 *Close*

12.30 **Warfare.**

BBC 2

0.45 Open University: Education – Learning Maths Together. Ends at 7.10

8.00 News

8.10 Film: *The Count of Monte Cristo* (1934, b/w). Splendid adaptation of the classic adventure story in which Edmond Dantes escapes his island prison seeking to avenge those who plotted his internment. Robert Donat excels as the swashbuckling self-declared aristocrat. Also starring Elsie Laniö, Louis Gellhorn and Sidney Blackmer. Directed by Rowland V. Lee

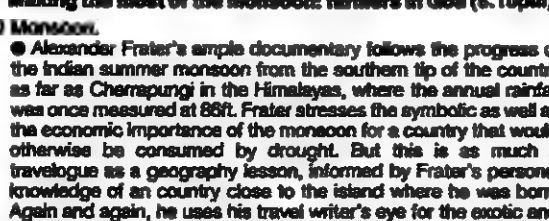

10.00 Film: *Madeline* (1949, b/w) When the French lover of a well-bred young Glasgow woman, Madeline Smith, is found poisoned, she is accused of murder. Despite the non-committal ending, David Lean's careful staging of a famous Victorian murder trial is a watchable period piece. Starring Ann Todd, then Lean's wife, in the title role, with Leslie Banks and Elizabeth Sellers.

11.55 The Chelsea Flower Show 1991. Alan Titchmarsh, Anne Gregg and Stefan Burzucki take a look back at the gorgeous floral pageant that was the Royal Horticultural Society's Spring Show last week (t) 12.45 Bertha. Carlton (t)

1.00 Film: *Let's Make Love* (1960) Marilyn Monroe vehicle that brought out a host of Hollywood stars in cameo roles including Bing Crosby, Gene Kelly and Milton Berle. While Monroe postures and pouts, Yves Montand carries off with Gaille Roberts his role as a stuffy millionaire increased by plans to stage an off-Broadway satire about him. The plot becomes ludicrously involved, especially when Montand joins the cast of the show as an actor and has his head turned by the handsome hunchback of one of the show's stars – and they do not belong to Tony Randall. With Frankie Vaughan. Directed by George Cukor

3.00 Cricket continued from BBC1. The closing session of the last of the three one-day internationals between England and the West Indies at Lord's for the Texaco Trophy. With commentary from Richie Benaud and Jack Bennister

7.30 ZEP II begins with Dance Energy 2. Nusratti and the crew make the hippest and hypest in dance music. The guests include jazz rappers Gang Starr, Spike Lee and Jazzie B 7.50 Liquid TV. New series combining animation, puppets and comic strip characters



the incongruous, delighting in the folly of a maharajah's monsoon

pavilion which was designed to evoke the real moonson with coloured water and simulated thunder. Frater is at his best in Calcutta. Ungovernable and bankrupt though the city may be, Frater has a soft spot for it and not least his amiable Marxism

9.20 José Carreras and Friends. José Carreras has graced the stage since the age of 11 and his impressive career has survived serious illness. To see him emerge as still one of the world's foremost artistic artists. Tonight he gathers a rich cast of performers at London's Drury Lane Theatre for a gala concert of favourite arias, duets and popular songs in aid of the Carreras International Leukaemia Foundation. Among the highlights are Katia Ricciarelli singing Puccini's "O Mio Babilino Caro", Ruggero Raimondi's rendition of Tosti's "L'Ultima Canzone" and a rousing drinking song from *La Traviata* as a finale performed by Carreras and friends.

9.50 Golf Highlights of the final round of the Volvo PGA championship from Wentworth

11.15 Critic. The best of the action from the last of the three Taseco Trophy one-day games between England and the West Indies

11.55 Weather

12.00 Open University: Arts – Victorian Wages Of Death. Ends at

- 6.00 TV-am 9.25 Cross Words. Crossword game show.
- 9.55 Film: Cromwell (1970) Solid, strong period piece tracing the rise to power of Oliver Cromwell (Richard Harris), the civil war and the subsequent execution of King Charles I (Alec Guinness). Directed by Ken Hughes
- 12.30 News and weather 12.45 Home and Away. (Oracle)
- 1.15 Film: Jason and the Argonauts (1963). A lively children's film telling of Jason's epic search for the Golden Fleece in order that he can reclaim his rightful throne as King of Thessaly. Jason (Todd Armstrong) is aided and hindered by various assorted gods as he and his band do battle with winged shapeshifters, a giant man made of brass and a sea monster. The film is a classic produced by Ray Harryhausen's wonderful animation work, notably the serpentine hydra and an army of sword-wielding skeletons. Directed by Don Chaffey
- 3.15 Give Us a Clue. Celebrity charades
- 3.45 Ken Dodd at the London Palladium. The comedian from Knotty Ash makes a triumphant return to the London Palladium (r)
- 5.00 News and weather 5.10 Thames News
- 5.15 Home and Away (Oracle)
- 5.45 Film: It Shouldn't Happen to a Vet (1976). Likeable sequel to *Alf Cressins Great and Small* starring John Alderton and Colin Blakely as the two partners in James Hemm's famous Yorkshire veterinary practice. Directed by Eric Til
- 7.30 Coronation Street. (Oracle)
- 8.00 Film: The Mystery Movie: A Steeping Lie. A woman is found murdered near a canal. When Chief Inspector Ward (George Baker) begins his investigations he discovers that only the woman's dying father and her alcoholic aunt have had any contact with her in the last 20 years. With Christopher Ravenscroft and Sylvia Syms (r)



Dual loyalty: Queen Noor of Jordan with Sue Lawley (10.00p)

00:00 **CRUISE:** *Sex Lawley's* interview with Queen Noor is largely an interview of excuses upon the Jordanian first lady's dual loyalty. Before marrying King Hussein in 1978, she was an American called Lisa Halaby. She has since become a convert to Islam. So what did she feel, Lawley asks, when she heard that the American bombs had killed more than 100 women and children in Baghdad during the Gulf war? After just a tiny hesitation, Queen Noor gives the perfect diplomatic answer about any loss of life being regrettable. Nor, of course, does Lawley bother to ask whether she was into discrediting Saddam Hussein as a murderer. This is the second of a so far occasional series, following Lawley's encounter with John Major. Pitched somewhere between the astirngency of *Walden* and effusiveness of *Wogan*, the show usefully fills a gap. But the 25 minutes or so left after the commercials are not enough

(2.30 **News and weather. 10.40** **Thames News**

0.50 **Film:** *Used Cars* (1980). Two misadventures of employees of the New Deal Used Car Company in Texas. A twisted bunch. Rudy Russo (Kurt Russell) is bent on election to the state senate but must first earn enough money to pay the necessary votes. Roy Fuchs and his twin brother Luke (both played by Jack Wardner) are determined to drive each other out of the business. Jeff (Gerrit Graham) is more interested in bedding female clients than selling cars, while resident mechanic Jim (Frank McKee), a shell-shocked Vietnam War veteran, comes to the rescue. The two brothers stay together long enough to drive off the foreground. A variable comedy with some good moments but which sometimes crosses the thin line into nastiness. Directed by Robert Zemeckis

2.50am **Sportsworld Extra** presented by Tony Francis

5.00 **Film:** *Stella Dallas* (1937, b/w). A classic, powerhouse melodrama with an incredible performance from Barbara Stanwyck in the title role that leaves the recent Bette Midler mermaid gasping for breath. The story is pretty straightforward, but the acting and the social advancement. To this end she marries the insipid son of a millionaire (John Boles) only to find herself abandoned, miserable and a social outcast due to her impoverished background. With Anne Shirley and Barbara O'Neil. Directed by King Vidor

6.00 **Alfred Hitchcock Presents:** *It Looks Good Kill*. A beautiful woman, obsessed with her young looks, demands that her doctor change her into another woman

8.30 **Backlog. Rock music programme**

9.30 **DDI Morning News. 10.00am**

CHANNEL 4

8.00 The Channel Four Daily

9.25 *Flicks* The *Gisco Kid* and the *Lady* (1939, b/w). A lively, action-packed starring Cesar Romero in the title role, a Mexican bandit with a heart of gold. Directed by Herbert I. Leeds

10.50 *Flicks* *Thunderhead*, Son of *Flicks* (1945, b/w). An enjoyable sequel to the successful horse film *My Friend Flicka* that reunites the lead performers, Roddy McDowall and Preston Foster

Directed by Louis King

12.15 *Norman*. A collection of views of life in the Indian sub-continent (r)

12.30 *Diag*. Off-beat gardening series (r) (Teletext)

1.00 *Sesame Street* (r) 2.00 *Right to Reply* (r). (Teletext)

2.30 *Channel 4 Racing* from Sandown Park. Live coverage of the 2.35, 3.15 and 4.00 races

3.45 *Fifteen-to-One*. Quick-fire elimination quiz

5.00 *Movie Winners: His Master's Voice*. The first of six dramas made by the Australian Children's Television Foundation. A group of children play at a mysterious old country estate and set out to catch a ghost

6.00 *The Cosby Show*. Successful American sitcom (r)

6.30 *Tonight*, with Jonathan Ross. The guests are comedy duo Trevor and Simon, and the hosts the Temptations and champion body builder Tonya Knight

7.00 *News summary* and weather followed by *Creature Comforts*: Oscar Special. In March Nick Park won the Oscar for Best Animated Short for his inspired film, *Creature Comforts*. To mark his achievement Channel Four is showing the film. In which two animals, a cat and a dog, are shown in the living conditions, as well as other works by Park including *A Grand Day Out* and *Wor Story*. The programme finishes with an edited version of the documentary *Lip Gloss*, which reveals Park's unusual approach to animation

8.00 *Broadcasts*. (Teletext)

8.30 *My Two Dads*. Duane Flat American sitcom about two men who bring a daughter.



Tramping round the streets of LA: Logan Clarke (9.00pm)

9.00 Watching the Detective: Logan Clarke.
● CHOICE: This series on private eyes concludes in Los Angeles with a profile of Logan Clarke, a fast-talking ex-con who declares that "I'm expensive because I'm good". He says he always wanted to be in showbusiness and you can believe it. He tackles every case as if he was making a movie, with himself in the star role. Clarke's speciality is child kidnapping. Since children are snatched from one parent to the other in the United States, he has no lack of work. The film follows him through one case, of a couple who think their daughter is going to be taken away and molested but don't know when. The outcome is grotesque, even by Hollywood standards. But Clarke revels in assignments that are likely to be crazy or dangerous. He leaves the normal cases to his agents. A favourite plot is the reverse sting, here practised by Logan Clarke's husband, trying to cheat his wife over a divorce settlement. (Teletext)

10.00 E.N.G.: Running with the Pack. Canadian drama series about a tough news team from a television station in Toronto. Watson (Karl Pruner) cheats on the coverage of a story and is reported to boss Fennell (Art Hindle). (Teletext)

1.00 Global Image: Famine Fatigue.
● CHOICE: A documentary by a French film-maker, Patrice Barrat, about the the famine in southern Sudan and the ways it was attracted so little international attention. He points the finger largely at the media, journalists who discovered the extent of the famine, in which some 250,000 people died, found little backing from their editors. An American reporter was recoiled by her *Atlanta* parent and ironically found herself writing a story about a local drought and a hospice ben. French television only took up the issue because famine was a famous row in the news. Says Barrat to explain media reluctance: "France is a country that has a saying only for more of big emotion a day. But governments are blamed as well. The film suggests that the United States was happy to blame the Ethiopian famine on the Marxist regime, but reluctant to intervene in the affairs of the then friendly Sudanese

12.00 Film: Africa on the Rhine (1985). Goor, a Senegalese peasant, is forced to sell a sacred mask to a tourist for food to survive. Later Goor's wife retrieves the mask. Directed by Papa B. Seck. English subtitles. *Fora & Africa*

TV VARIATIONS

ANGELA
As London except; 1:50pm The Law and Her
McGraw 2:45 The TV Chart Show
Pop Profile 4:05 60 Minutes 5:00-5:30
Pick of the Week

BORDER
As London except; 5:15pm-5:45 Ties the High
Road 12:55 Film: The Cat and the
Canary (Honor Blackman, Michael Caine,
John Gielgud) 1:45 The TV Chart Show
Pop Profile 4:05 60 Minutes 5:00-5:30
Pick of the Week 3:40 The Goldenberg
Interference 4:30-5:30 The Hi Man and Her

CENTRAL
As London except; 3:45pm Carlton Time
Ties the High Road 12:55 12:55
Phonics: Cat Block 11:50 Film: Outlaws of
Blood (Gene Kravitz, Christopher Lee) 3:25
World Association Football 3:40-4:15
Entertainment UK 5:00-5:30 Cartoon
Index '91

GRANDPRIX
As London except; 3:45pm-5:00 Film: The
Magnificent Magical Magnet of Santa Maria
Mystic Films The Cat and the Canary 2:45
Fast Lady 3:00 Ties the High Road 6:30-
7:00 The 1981 Grand UK Mountain Road
Race 7:00-7:30 The TV Chart Show
Canary (Honor Blackman, Edward Fox) 2:45

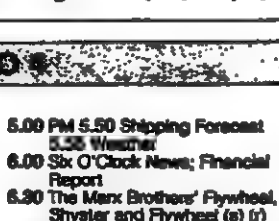
GRANADA
As London except; 3:45pm-5:00 Film: The
Magnificent Magical Magnet of Santa Maria
Mystic Films The Cat and the Canary 2:45
America's Top Ten 3:15 Pick of the Week
3:40 The Goldenberg Interference 4:30-5:30
The Hi Man and Her

SCOTTISH
As London except; 3:45pm Carlton Time
6:00 Scotland Today 6:30 Ties the High
Road 7:00-7:30 Television Is - A Fair Thing
10:30 Scotland Tonight 11:20 Phonics: Cat
Block 11:50 Film: Outlaws of Blood (Gene
Kravitz, Christopher Lee) 3:25
One 2:05 Melody of Dances with Women
2:30 Allround Hitchcock Presents 3:00
Cartoon Index 3:30 America's Top Ten
The Concert 5:00 William Tell 8:30-9:30
Johnnie R

TEW
As London except; 12:55pm Film: The Cat
and the Canary (Honor Blackman, Edward
Fox) 2:45 America's Top Ten 3:15 Pick
of the Week 3:40 The Goldenberg Interference
4:30-5:30 The Hi Man and Her

TVS
As London except; 12:55pm Sportsweek
Eden 1:50 Special Show 2:50 Film: The
Gaelinige Gael 4:15 Night Gallery 6:00-6:30

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7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

DATE _____

KEY ONE

As the Astra and Mariposa satellites return to the hour, the following shows are scheduled:

5:30am News 5:30am Health Connection 10:30am News 11:00am 11:30am Interpersonal 11:30am Sports Report 11:30am Beyond 2000 1:30pm 5:30pm NBC Today 2:30pm CBS News 4:30pm 5:30pm 5:00am 5:00am 5:30pm Newsweek 5:30pm Beyond 2000 1:30pm Newsline 11:30pm CBS News 12:30am CBS News 1:30am NBC News 2:30am CBS News 3:30am

KEY TWO

As the Astra and Mariposa satellites return to the hour, the following shows are scheduled:

5:30am News 5:30am Health Connection 10:30am News 11:00am 11:30am Interpersonal 11:30am Sports Report 11:30am Beyond 2000 1:30pm 5:30pm NBC Today 2:30pm CBS News 4:30pm 5:30pm 5:00am 5:00am 5:30pm Newsweek 5:30pm Beyond 2000 1:30pm Newsline 11:30pm CBS News 12:30am CBS News 1:30am NBC News 2:30am CBS News 3:30am

Beyond 2000

MOVIES:

Vis the Astris and Marcopolo satellites. **10:00am** *Newsweek*. **10:30am** *Forecast to This Day* (1989): Neil Armstrong and 17 army engineers who parachute from the moon to become lunar site inspectors. Co-stars Nigel Havers.

11:00am *Witnessed Ringer* (1988): A woman's version of *Witness* featuring murdering at the Los Hollywood studio scene as a blend of *Witness* and *Love Action*. Starring **Sherry**.

12:00pm *Battle Beyond the Stars* (1990): Science-fiction adventure about a boy who rises upon a band of inter-galactic warriors to save the world from a mad alien who runs a police station. Starring **Thomas**.

1:00pm *Police Academy II: City Under Siege* (1985): **Bubbs** *Smith* and **David** *Grant* find themselves in a kidnapping saga. See the *Police Academy* force.

2:00pm *Crash Site if You Can* (1989): **Matt** *Smith* and **David** *Grant* find themselves in a crash site in high-speed road races to make it to the top.

2:30pm *History of Russia* (1989): **Michael** *Smith* and **David** *Grant* find themselves in a crash site in high-speed road races to make it to the top.

3:00pm *The Nutcracker* (1989): **Pacific** *Northwest Ballet* performs *Tchaikovsky's* *The Nutcracker* as a *choreography* composed by *Michael* *Smith*.

3:45 P.M. (1978): *Powerful story of the rise of a power-hungry union boss. Starring* **Michael** *Smith*.

4:15pm *Cinema Paradiso* (1989): *Delightful* *story of a man's passion for the cinema which begins during his childhood in Sicily.*

4:30 P.M. (1989): *Moving drama about a boy who returns to the family home to look after his elderly father. Starring* **Tom** *Smith* and **David** *Grant*.

10:20pm *Flight Night* (1989): *A teenage boy believes his neighbour is a vampire and seeks to help him.*

11:00pm *Police Academy* (1984): *Starring* **Michael** *Smith* and **David** *Grant*.

12:10am *Five Corners* (1989): *Powerful* *document, set in Southern New York, about a group of young people who are involved in a violent riot during a protest against the Vietnam War.*

money for a local school

[illegible]

Group Temple Status 7.20 The Adv

[illegible]

100

9:55-10:55pm Open University (FM only) 6.55 Weather: News
10.00 Morning Concert: Glezunov (Concert Wozze No 1 in D); Dore (Grigg Fair)
7.30 News
7.35 Morning Concert (cont): Rossini (Overture); Liszt (Concerti); Paganini on Themes from Rigoleto); Sibolux (Spring Song); Debussy (Nostalgie)
8.30 News
8.35 Composers of the West: Birnforth (Four Interludes for a Violin); Schumann (The Carnival); PUNCH and Judy - excerpts; Sacred Theatre
9.35 Morning Concert (cont): Schumann (Piano Concerto No 2); Philip Jones Brass Ensemble; Moldovskii (Il cavaliere di S. Giorgio); Clorinda: Solovskii; Music Antiques Köln; Deltus (Intermezzo); Fennimore and Gorman (The Sicilian); Music from Chameleon (Latter Orchestra); Puccini (Crisostomo); Albert Cuatrecas; Heyward's in Tempore bell: Solovskii; Leipzig Radio Chorus; Dresden
9.55 Morning Concert: Beethoven (Wellington's Victory, Op 91; Beethoven Op
10.40 7-10.30pm Cricket Special (MWF only) Second and Test Indies Third one-day Testco international from Lord's.
1.05pm News. 1.30 Country Scoreboard. 1.40-7.30 Commentary
7.40 Northern Sinfonia (FM only) under Jean-Bernard Pommer, pianist, performs Mendelssohn (Symphony No 3 in E minor); Wagner (Die Meistersinger Night's Dream); Faure (Ballade for Piano and Orchestra); Schumann (Introduction and Symphony No 3 in E minor) (Allegro) (Op 54 in A, Italien)
9.00pm News (FM only)
9.05 St David's Hall Recital (FM only): The pianist Martin Jones (Variations on a Theme in a Polish Folk Tune in A flat, Op 51); Rachmaninov (Etude-Silence in C minor and in E minor, Op 33 Nos 3 and 6; in E flat major, Op 33 No 5); Liszt (Concert, Op 33 No 7); in A minor and in D minor (Op 39 Nos 2 and 5); Lysander (Barcarolle in G sharp minor, Op 46); Chopin (Prelude, an Allegretto for piano, The Nutcracker) (7.00-7.10)
00 Third Opinion (FM only) (7.10-7.15)

2.45 An Alternative Beethoven Nine (FM only): Symphony No 7.
7. Post-war recordings of Beethoven symphonies
3.45 Post-war recordings of Beethoven (FM only): Quartet No 2 (7.15-7.20)
4.10 Music for Organ (FM only): Handel's Messiah (Soprano A, Op 55 No 3); Scotti; air Beat (Andante with Variations, Notturno for Wind, Op 34); Bachmann (Grand Dramatic Fantasia)
4.45 A Breath of Liberty (FM only): City of London Sinfonia under Holzer, with Michael Collins, clarinet, performs Weber (Clarinet Concerto No 2 in B flat major, Op 159) (Clarinet Concerto) (7.15-7.20)
5.30 Mainly for Pleasure (FM only) 7.00 News (FM only) 7.05 News (FM only)
7.30 A Mozart Festival: Quintet, with Arleen Auger, soprano, Gyldenrae, alto, and viola, and Karl Gotthard, piano, perform Mozart (Rideaux la colma, K 152; Concerto, all four key, K 407; Dans un bois solitaire, K 308; Un moto di gioia, K 579; Glance still il momento - Dan Velez, tenor, and Peter Flegler; Violin Sonata in G, K 301; L'amerio, solo cantabile, il re pastore; Non più tosto, il re pastore - Non tenebre, solo bene, K 480, Idem; String Quintet in C, K 1515; and 8.20 Interval Reading
9.10-9.15 CHOICE: Radio 8's current Mozart bicentenary celebrations show no signs of running out of steam. On the contrary, the series is putting novelties out of the bag, such as tonight's poem by Alison Brackenbury, which she herself introduces. She says the work is devoted to 40 years after Mozart's death, when his widow Constanze, living quietly in Salzburg, reflects on the musical and creative years she spent with her genius spouse. Constanze has the poem's second section to herself, leaving it to the resurrected Mozart to perform the sections that follow.
9.30 After Orchestras under John Lubbock performs Poulenc (Piano Concerto); Melisiot (Ballet); Stawinsky (Symphony in B)
10.10 Midday 11.30 News
11.35-12.25am Composers of the Week: Haydn (7.10-7.15)

RADIO

6.00 *News Shipping Forecast 6.00*
 News Briefing: Weather 6.10
 Farming Today 6.26 Prayer for
 the Day 6.30 Today, Edt 6.50,
 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News
 6.55, 7.55 Weather
 6.55 *The Walk on a Tight Rope* in
 five programmes in which
 Peter Mayle continues to recall
 how he spent his time in the
 French province 8.57 Weather
 9.00 *News*
 9.05 *Start the Week:* From the
 Pavilion Theatre, Brighton.
 Melvyn Stutter, who is
 Jack Tinker, Professor John
 Barrow and Paul Mowbray (n)
 9.15 *News*, Monday 6.30
 9.30 *Morning Story:* Trail of the
 Green Blazer, by R.K.
 Seymour, Read by Peter Dinkley
 9.45 *Start the Week:* Live from
 St. Peter's Church, Fawley,
 Southampton (n)
 9.50 *News*, Tuesday 6.30
 10.00 *News*, Wednesday 6.30
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KEY MOVIES: *Van the Astronaut* and *Manzanita* (both[illegible]

SPORRAN AFFAIRS

My Friend McLuish recalls how, in the Swinging Sixties, he attended a particularly sprightly party. Many and varied were the Highland games played that night. These culminated in the host blindfolding all the ladies with their sashes. He then asked each man to, "Throw his sporrán into the ring!" Every lady grasped a sporrán, and its owner grasped the lady.

ALAS, the sporráns outnumbered the ladies by one, and McLuish was left alone.

The host, however, thoughtful as he was exuberant, had a bottle of sumptuous sherry-cask matured The Macaulian Malt Whisky on the side for consolation.



As it turned out, McLuish told me afterwards that it was the companion he would have CHOSEN ALL ALONG. Indeed knowing what sort of party it was going to be, he had deliberately sported a particularly *flat and paltry sporrán* to elude the grasp of the blindfolded goddesses in the first place.

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● SPORT 21-27
● LAW 28
● EDUCATION 28,29
● BUSINESS AND FINANCE 30-32

Ballesteros gives flawless display to lead the field

By MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

IT WAS quite like old times at Wentworth yesterday as Severino Ballesteros hoisted himself above Bernhard Langer and Nick Faldo with a third round of 65 in the Volvo PGA golf championship.

The Spaniard enthralled the thousands who followed him with a flawless exhibition in which he extracted five birdies and one eagle from the West course on which he has won no fewer than five times.

He will have few opportunities to record a more satisfying victory, as with a 15 under par score of 201, he leads by two from Langer (69) and by three from Faldo, who also scored 65, and Colin Montgomerie (69).

For more than a decade Ballesteros, Langer and Faldo have contributed much to the glittering reputation of European golf. Yet not for some time has this triumvirate found themselves locked in a situation which is guaranteed to attract a huge gallery today.

The return of Ballesteros to centre stage, on a course where he has so often manipulated the script, provides for a scenario which is as fascinating as it is fitting, since the

Championship is regarded by the PGA European Tour as the Royal Ascot of their schedule.

Ballesteros even found the time between shots to offer advice to playing partner Stephen Field, who at the age of 26 was competing in only his third tournament at this level.

It supported the belief that Ballesteros has not only put behind him a year of disappointments, but emerged with a refreshing new attitude, which will win him an even bigger following, in addition to more tournaments.

Not that Langer or Faldo can expect to be offered an olive branch by Ballesteros as the final round unfolds. The Spaniard is well aware that a victory against such illustrious rivals will complete the rehabilitation of his game, which he began by winning in Japan earlier this month.

Ballesteros points to a lesson from David Leadbetter, a new metal driver and a new putter being the keys behind his recovery.

"I have more motivation to practice now," he said. "It is not a miracle that I am suddenly playing well. I know

it is there again so I can relax and be patient. I don't have to force things; I can wait for them to happen."

That outlook was critical to Ballesteros's challenge as he gathered only two birdies in his first 11 holes, while the likes of Jesper Parnevik, of Sweden, Montgomerie and Faldo played the outward half in 30, 31 and 32, respectively.

Then Ballesteros found the magic touch on the greens as he followed a putt of 30 feet for an eagle at the 12th with three more of between 20 and 25 feet for birdies so that he played the last seven holes in five under. Not one other player could live with that.

Langer, like Ballesteros, has always enjoyed wonderful support at Wentworth. But he had little fortune on the greens and his game in general was not sharp enough to emulate Ballesteros's score. He strayed off the straight and narrow on several occasions including at the 13th where he salvaged par with a 20 foot putt. Langer failed to escape at the 17th where he marked a six on his card.

Faldo unquestionably played his best golf of the year. The longest putt he holed was from 25 feet at the 14th where he made one of his seven birdies. He got up and down twice to save par although his game from tee to green was excellent.

The Australians, Wayne Riley, who shared the halfway lead with Langer, and Rodger Davis, are among a group only four shots adrift of Ballesteros and Ian Woosnam scored 66 for a total of 206 from which point he believes he can still win.

GB and Ireland unless stated
201: S Ballesteros (Sp), 67, 68, 65, 200; B Langer (Ger), 67, 67, 65, 204; C Montgomerie (Sc), 68, 68, 68, 204; J Parnevik (Swe), 73, 67, 65, 205; R Davis (Aus), 71, 68, 66; J Ryland (Swe), 68, 68, 68; S Darcy, 68, 68, 70; W Riley (Aus), 68, 71, 71, 209; I Woosnam, 70, 68, 68; B Barnes, 68, 70, 69; G Brand Jr, 68, 68, 73, 209; J Rivera (Sp), 68, 68, 69; S Field, 68, 68, 71; E Romero (Arg), 71, 68, 70; P Smith, 68, 70, 71; D Davis (Sp), 69, 68, 71; R Beal, 68, 68, 73; S Richardson, 68, 68, 74; W Price, 70, 68, 70; D Davis, 68, 70, 71; B Mitchell, 71, 68, 68; W Grant, 71, 68, 72; A Lyle, 71, 72, 68; P Broadhurst, 67, 70, 70; C Jones, 71, 70, 71; S Clark, 68, 68, 74; G Lawson (SA), 70, 68, 74; S Norton (US), 68, 70, 74; P Tanswain (US), 67, 71, 74; M James, 67, 68, 77; S Tomlinson, 70, 73, 70; D Flockhart, 70, 73, 70; A Storer (Ger), 72, 70, 71; C Moody, 68, 73, 72; M Harwood (Aus), 71, 70, 72; G Welch, 68, 70, 74; P Way, 70, 68, 75; G Gall, 68, 71, 68, 74; J J Russell, 68, 73, 71; P Seely (Aus), 72, 70, 72; A Sherburne, 71, 72, 73; J M O'Connell (Sp), 70, 72, 72; K Wiles, 73, 68, 72; J Macdonald, 70, 71, 73; A Fothergill (Swe), 71, 70, 73; P Fazio (US), 68, 74, 71; J Rutledge (Can), 67, 72; S McAlister, 70, 72, 73; J M Carls (Sp), 71, 70, 74; P Harvey, 72, 68, 74; M Clayton (Aus), 68, 70, 72; M Sunesson (Swe), 70, 68, 74; 218: P O'Malley (Aus), 73, 68, 74; M Lerner (US), 68, 70, 74; J Bannister, 67, 74, 75; S Pearce, 70, 68, 77.

Lendl can make an early start

By ANDREW LONGMORE
TENNIS CORRESPONDENT
PARIS

FOR the second year in succession, Ivan Lendl will be able to begin his grass court tennis preparations early, except that this year the premature start was not part of his plans.

Lendl, the No. 3 seed, was forced to withdraw yesterday just 24 hours before the start of the centenary French Open because of an injury to his right hand and foot. But, provided the hand heals in time, he may well decide to defend his title at Beckenham next week.

Doctors have advised the three times French Open champion to rest until the end of the week after an operation to remove scar tissue from the palm of his right hand just under three weeks ago.

Lendl, aged 31, missed the French last year as part of his meticulous preparations for Wimbledon, but, not entirely wholeheartedly, had decided to return to his normal schedule this year. Wimbledon, however, remains his goal for the year and the interruption to his preparations might just prove beneficial in the long run. Last year, he reached the height of his form in beating Becker to win the title at Quersa, but his form had dropped away by the second week of Wimbledon.

Despite only playing four clay court matches in two years, Lendl was still a fancied candidate for the French title, a reflection both of his formidable reputation as a clay court player and the lack of an obvious favourite for this year's men's singles title at Roland Garros.

Lendl's withdrawal - and that of Jonas Svensson, the No. 13 seed who has twice reached the semi-final of the French - theoretically opens up the top half of the draw for Stefan Edberg and will certainly not be mourned by John McEnroe, who returns to the French Open for the first time in three years. McEnroe plays Andrei Cherkasov today, while another ageing American, Jimmy Connors, is also on view.

Open contest, page 25

Gayle's double blow gains a rare success

Birmingham City 3
Tranmere Rovers 2

By KEITH BLACKMORE

TWO spectacular goals by John Gayle, a £175,000 buy from Wimbledon earlier this season, yesterday gave Birmingham City the Leyland DAF Cup, only the second trophy the club has won in its 116-year history.

Birmingham's long-ball method prevailed, but Tranmere put up a marvellous fight before giving up the cup they had won last year. They now have until Saturday to prepare for a more important Wembley fixture: the third division play-off final.

Birmingham signalled their intentions in the eleventh minute. Gayle found Clarkson on the right then ran on to meet his cross. Nixon tipped

the ball to safety but Birmingham had glimpsed the route to success.

Ten minutes later they took it. Clarkson clomped the ball 40 yards up field, Gayle flicked it on and Sumridge wriggled between Hughes and Higgins, then dummied his way past Nixon and swept the ball home. Of its sort, the goal was a beauty, revealing all the strength and discipline that Macari has encouraged.

More was to come via the same route. Gayle had already headed wide from another long cross from Clarkson when, three minutes from half time, he scored. Yates picked the ball up in midfield and pushed it forward to Gayle, who let it run before turning, dashing past Vickers and thumping it into the top left hand corner. A minute later, it could have been 3-0, Nixon making a wonderful right-

handed save from Peer. In all this time, Tranmere had done little attacking, but after the interval they pressed forward.

Without Harvey, still apparently suffering from a virus, they made little headway until Malkin and Martindale replaced McNab and Vickers on the hour.

The net change, a forward replacing a defender, did the trick at once. First, Morrissey made a splendid run across goal before finding Malkin. He squared the ball into the path of Cooper who steered it into goal. Five minutes later, it was 2-2, Morrissey crossing from the right and Steel equalising with a thumping header.

At last Tranmere began to live up to expectations and for 20 minutes Birmingham looked out of their depth. Yet a low shot from Irons, which bounced off Thomas's knee, was the only time Tranmere came close to taking the lead, a failing they paid for.

Hughes fouled Gayle just inside the Tranmere half. From Clarkson's free kick, Overson headed it back across goal and Gayle completed his afternoon with an overhead kick from ten yards.

BIRMINGHAM CITY: M Thomas; Clarkson, J Fairs, M Yates, V Cooper, T Matthews, D Peer, J Gayle, P Robinson, N Glenister, S Sumridge (subs: D Bailey, T O'NEILL, P O'NEILL, E Moore, D Higgins, G Blaxland, M McNab (capt: D Martindale), M Hughes, S Vickers (capt: C Mullins), J Morrissey, K Irons, J Steel, S Cooper, A Thomas. Referee: J Martin.

Samaranch said last night. IOC staff had been unable to make telephone contact with Abuja. Al-Salim was quoted, in a Reuters message from Nigeria, as saying before the meeting of the 20-member Liberation Committee: "There is cause for serious concern in relations with South Africa." The OAU is worried that loosening of sanctions against South Africa will allow the national government to stop short of complete abolition of apartheid.

Today's meeting precedes the summit meeting of African heads of state from June 3 to 5. Stanley Masubela, of



Power of persuasion: Ballesteros wills his ball home at the 18th to secure the lead

Lineker honours club and country

By STUART JONES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

GARY Lineker, the England football captain, has been given permission to miss the third of the four games during the forthcoming tour of Australia and Malaysia and accept instead for his club.

Next week he will travel from New Zealand to Tokyo, where Tottenham Hotspur are playing in an exhibition match, and rejoin the party in Malaysia.

Graham Taylor had insisted that no one would be allowed to fly in and out of the tour. "Otherwise, it will be like a holiday," he said. Chris Waddle, who will represent Marseille against Red Star Belgrade in the European Cup final in Bari on Wednesday, was therefore ruled out of contention.

In explaining why he had chosen to make an exception to his own rule, Taylor revealed that, initially, he had rejected the request put forward by Terry Venables, the Tottenham manager. When the Japanese officials flew to London to make a personal appeal on Friday, he agreed to change his mind.

Lineker was contracted to appear in Tokyo as well as in Hawaii but he insisted that he felt it more important to captain his country. Unlike the representatives of Arsenal, Liverpool and Manchester United, all of whom were withdrawn by their respective managers, he was released by his club. But Tottenham have since lost Gascoigne and

Mabbutt - both of whom have undergone operations since the victory over Nottingham Forest in the FA Cup final - and also Nayim and van den Hauwe through injury.

Depleted and financially insecure, they needed the presence of Lineker to bolster the attendance in Japan.

"I've said that he can go there on June 5 and come back on June 10," Taylor said. "I can see Tottenham's point of view and they've got enough problems already. I think this is the right way to conduct ourselves and it shows that I'm prepared to help clubs."

"When Bryan Robson was Manchester United's only first midfield player, for instance, I took him off after 70 minutes against Cameroon. I've established a good relationship with managers and, although I could have challenged Arsenal, Liverpool and United about pulling their players out, I respected their decisions."

Lineker, who will depart with the squad this morning, has reduced his chances of lifting himself higher in the list of England's scorers. With the first goal against Argentina on Saturday, he now has 40. Jimmy Greaves has 44 and Bobby Charlton 49.

TOUR ITINERARY: June 1: v Australia (in Sydney); June 4: v New Zealand (Auckland); June 6: v New Zealand (Wellington); June 12: v Malaysia (Kuala Lumpur).

New role for Barnes, page 24
David Miller, page 24

Lawrence has chance to lay Test claim

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Lawrence is to be unleashed on West Indies cricketers at Lord's today with the platform to prove that he should now form, along with Devon Malcolm, a bowling spearhead for England with the speed to rival anything the opposition can produce.

The third and final Texaco Trophy one-day international carries only prestige, as England secured the trophy by winning at Old Trafford on Saturday. But, like the previous two matches, it is sold out and, for Lawrence, who played his only Test match three years ago, it is an opportunity to restate his impressive early-season form and his development as a fast bowler of controlled hostility.

The opening for Lawrence, of Gloucestershire, is clear. Angus Fraser, England's most reliable seam bowler, is no nearer a full recovery from his chronic hip condition and may even miss the entire season, while Ian Botham is struggling to recover from his

strained hamstring in time for the opening Test on June 6.

Lawrence, aged 27, will play today because Micky Stewart, the team manager, wants every member of England's party to have at least one trophy match. As England's batting is long, he may directly replace Allan Lamb, likely to be ruled out with a bruised left foot, the legacy of a yorker from his Northamptonshire team colleague, Curtly Ambrose. As extra security, England yesterday added Nasser Hussain to their squad as an emergency fielder.

West Indies have selection problems today, with Gordon Greenidge having joined his regular opening partner, Desmond Haynes, on the casualty list. Greenidge has damaged ligaments in his perennially troublesome left knee and unless Haynes is risked earlier than planned, there could be a chance for the gifted left-hander, Brian Lara.

England's joy, page 25

Piper's slip costs his team dear

By IVO TENNANT

DO NOT imagine that cricketers are familiar with all the rules of one-day competitions and do not necessarily blame them for that. Some are arcane. But at Edgbaston yesterday, the Warwickshire wicketkeeper was found out for not being aware of a straightforward ruling, namely that his side would not win if the scores were level and they had lost fewer wickets.

Piper's reluctance to prevent a bye being scampered cost his side victory in their Refuge Assurance League match against Worcestershire. Warwickshire had made 203 for five, Ostler (48) Moles (39) and Lloyd (34) all contributing. Worcestershire's first three batsmen, Curtis, Moody and Weston, all made decent scores before the middle order fell away. The scores level, the match was tied.

At Taunton, Embury took five for 23, the best Sunday figures of his career, to inflict upon Somerset their first defeat of the season in this competition. This after returning his best Benson and Hedges Cup figures a month ago and having figures of seven for 71 on Friday against Sussex. Getting thrashed an

unbeaten 65 from 77 balls to bring Middlesex victory. Thus, Nottinghamshire, who beat Leicestershire by five wickets largely through an unbeaten 83 by Randall, lead the table. This was their fifth successive victory.

At Swanscombe, Sussex achieved their first victory of the season on Sundays, beating Glamorgan by 113 runs through bowling them out for a meagre 92. Figgitt and Salisbury took three wickets apiece and Bunting two. Still worse news for Glamorgan was that Morris, who retired hurt when hit on the right foot at the start of their innings, may not be able to resume his innings in the county championship today.

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It works by stabilising the allergy-sensitive cells in your nose to stop them from reacting to pollen. And, just in case the hay fever season catches you out, it also contains a gentle, yet effective decongestant.

Resiston ONE doesn't cause drowsiness, and costs only £3.33 for ten days' supply. So you can use it every day to prevent nasal hay fever, rather than waiting for an attack.

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NEW Resiston ONE

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*Call charged at 6p per minute peak rate, or 34p at all other times. Message duration approximately 30 seconds.

HSN5 Consumer Health

IOC out to dispel unease over S Africa

Lausanne

POLITICAL opposition to South Africa's return to the international sports arena is expected to harden at meetings of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU), starting at Abuja in Nigeria today. There is alarm among some black African nations at the speed with which South African sport is being re-embraced before the abolition of apartheid has taken place.

Last night, Juan Antonio Samaranch, the president of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), was trying to make counter with Salem Al-Salim, the Ethiopian gen-

eral secretary of OAU, to invite him to have discussions on the proposals of the special delegation sent two months ago to South Africa. The delegation's recommendation of provisional readmission for South Africa to the Olympic movement, pending the removal of apartheid laws by the government next month and with a six-month initial deadline, was confirmed at an IOC executive board meeting.

"For the success of the initiative, we are ultimately dependent on political agreement among African nations,"

he said. "Sanctions are being eroded, and we must stand together." Ike Nwankwu, the Nigerian foreign minister, expressed concern at the haste of some Africans to welcome back South Africa. "Africa should not be seen to be breaking ranks," he said.

Kebe M'Baye, of Senegal, the retiring chief judge at the Hague Court of International Justice, who led the IOC delegation to Johannesburg, has expressed optimism that South Africa might be included in the Olympic Games in Barcelona next year; Lamine Diack, also from Senegal and vice-president of the

ANC Party, said yesterday: "Sanctions are being eroded, and we must stand together." Ike Nwankwu, the Nigerian foreign minister, expressed concern at the haste of some Africans to welcome back South Africa. "Africa should not be seen to be breaking ranks," he said.

International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF), leading a delegation to the republic this month, was hopeful that South Africa will be at the world championships in Tokyo in August, as part of a deal which includes a million-dollar grant from the IAAF for sports facilities at Soweto.

These sporting initiatives, however, though given approval by Nelson Mandela and Mangosuthu Butheleshi, the black South African leaders, and also by the Association of African National Olympic Committees, are seen by other African politicians as being peripheral to the main anti-apartheid objectives.

CRICKET

Donald helps to displace leaders

By IVO TENNANT

THE Britannia Assurance county championship leaders, Essex, were not playing on Saturday, which meant that Warwickshire, whom they displaced, had the chance to regain their pre-eminence. To an extent they took it. Their total of 318 against Gloucestershire, of which Andy Mole's 133, brought them three bonus batting points.

They also had two Gloucestershire batsmen out by the close. As Donald and others have proved, Warwickshire's attack is always likely to take wickets; less impressive, as their defeat by Essex proved last week, is their middle order. Ooster - again - Two and Piper showed that they can make runs.

Generally, though, the bowlers held sway. The champions, Middlesex, who are still seeking their first victory of the season, bowled out Somerset for 224 in spite of Rookwood carrying his bat for 95. Four wickets apiece here for Elcock and Williams, and five catches for Farbrace, now first-choice wicket-keeper after Dowton's decision to retire.

For those who know little of Farbrace, heed that Claude Lewis, who in a long career with Kent coaches and captains, Alan Knott, described him as having as much potential as any cricketer he had seen. High praise, indeed.

There were wickets, too, for Worcestershire as they bowled out Hampshire for 281. Having brought about his county's victory over Lancashire the previous day by taking 11 wickets, he took a further six next to No. 10, restoring reputation with this young man.

His victims included Chris Smith - but not before this other commendably consistent cricketer had added to his weight of runs this season by making a half-century.

The only other century-maker was Moxon, who held together Yorkshire's increasingly brittle batting order against Northamptonshire. He was eventually out to Curran.

Parker, returning to his Sussex side and choosing to bat down the order, made 95 against Glamorgan. For this they were grateful, even if they have not been run-makers this season.

Smith was the only batsman to contribute a score of note, 61, to a total of 263.

Scoreboard, page 23

ROWING: Great Britain made a fine start in the Donsburg Regatta on Saturday with wins for Redgrave and Pinsent in the men's coxless pairs and for Burridge, Mulkenzie, Dillon and Beristoff in the men's coxed four.

WATER SKIING: John Bartley won the Carlsberg European Masters slalom title at Kirtorn Farm, near Reading.

CYCLING

Feat of Clay puts Banana-Falcon team in control

By PETER BRYAN

BANANA-Falcon started the defence of their Milk Race title with Jon Clay displaying a dominance in the prologue time trial that should bode well for the team on the 1.150 miles run to Liverpool.

The event against the clock is generally regarded as being the race of truth, although few riders competing on the tricky Bridlington seafront course yesterday were prepared to admit that victory there would necessarily produce overall success at the final finish line.

The maximum permitted distance for a prologue is five miles and Bridlington's 1.2-mile test was little more than a sprint by comparison. But if rules were to have been strictly applied, the race should not have started when it did, three hours before the earliest permitted time of 4pm.

It may have been that more concern was being expressed

about the absence of Romania's Marian Tirla who, with his team colleagues the previous day, had been helped materially when a Hull cycle dealer saw the quality of the riders' equipment and clothing.

George Stanel, the team's manager, explained to Milk Race organiser Brian Elliott that his rider had family problems and had returned to Romania on Saturday night. The unanswered question was how Tirla was able to fund and organise his journey. There were, in the minds of some older race followers, the memory of two Romanian defections the last time the nation competed in 1973.

The missing man apart, the crowd were kept excited by the regular changes in top positions as lap speeds started to exceed 30mph. Chris Walker, starting No. 16 of the 101

riders, put in 3min 10.93sec to displace the Soviet, Pavel Tonkov. Fifteen minutes later, Walker's Banana-Falcon colleague Keith Reynolds got down to 3:10.86 only to be displaced moments later by another Soviet, Andrei Dolgikh.

Clay's class set new standards - 3:07.09 - the prologue providing him with his richest pay day, of £1,000, and puts him in the yellow jersey of race leader at today's start of a split stage, first to Hull, a hilly 88 miles, and then the 27 miles city centre race hours later.

Clay will receive all the protection he needs along the road from his team and said that he wants to keep the yellow jersey as long as he can. Should there be a mishap, however, there are three other Banana men in the top nine and all capable on their form this season of moving up.

Only 30 seconds covers Clay, the fastest, and Mihai Aldulesa, of Romania, the slowest.

RESULT: Milk Race prologue (1.2 miles) 1. J. Clay (Banana-Falcon) 3:07.09; 2. A. Dolgikh (Soviet Union) 3:10.86; 3. P. Tonkov (Soviet Union) 3:10.86; 4. K. Reynolds (Banana-Falcon) 3:10.86; 5. C. Walker (Banana-Falcon) 3:10.86; 6. M. Tirla (Romania) 3:10.86; 7. S. Aldulesa (Romania) 3:10.86; 8. S. Walker (Banana-Falcon) 3:10.86; 9. S. Walker (Banana-Falcon) 3:10.86; 10. S. Walker (Banana-Falcon) 3:10.86.



Champion's charge: Shane Sutton, during the prologue

Casado wins in sprint

OLBIA, Sardinia (AP) - Philippe Casado, of France, edged out a competitor, Didier Thuex, in a final sprint to win the first stage of the Tour of Italy yesterday.

Casado finished the 120-mile course in four hours, 37 minutes and 34 seconds.

Casado and Thuex were followed by three Italian riders: Franco Cribbati, Franco Ballerini and Gianluigi Bortolotto. The race, which started, and finished in the port of Olbia, was dominated by Alberto Leanza, of Spain. He led the race for 93 miles.

FOOTBALL

Gascoigne's move is still on ice

LAZIO confirmed yesterday that they had yet to finalise a binding option to Tottenham Hotspur that would take Paul Gascoigne to Rome. But the door has clearly not closed on negotiations for him to move abroad (Dennis Sigworth writes).

Gascoigne, 24 today, is in hospital in London recovering from an operation on a ruptured cruciate ligament damaged in the FA Cup final against Nottingham Forest. Carlo Regalia, the Lazio general manager, and £1.4 million worth in Lazio, in London last week for talks with Nat Solomon, the chairman of Tottenham Hotspur plc, and discussions may continue in Bari this week when Gascoigne's

advisers, Mel Stein and Len Lazarus, attend the European Cup final.

Meanwhile Terry Venables, the Tottenham manager, has left for a holiday in Sardinia with his future still uncertain. "Your guess is as good as mine. In fact, anybody's guess is as good as mine at the moment," Venables said.

Brian Clough, the manager of Nottingham Forest, made a rare, big-money signing over the weekend when he paid Barnsley £1.4 million for Carl Tiler, the England Under-21 defender.

Manchester United have given a free transfer to Les Sealey, who had refused a 12-month contract.

EQUESTRIANISM

Dillon cashes in on chance

By JENNY MACARTHUR

TRACEY Dillon, from Hadfield, gained her first big day event win yesterday when she and her 11-year-old Check Out won the inaugural international section of the Windsor three-day event. Dillon, aged 24, won the event despite riding with a sprained ankle - incurred on the way to Windsor on anybody's guess is as good as mine at the moment - but broke down and she jumped out and missed the steps.

Her surprise win came after a dramatic shake-up in the final show jumping phase. Mark Todd, riding for his new sponsor, Kimberley Clark Limited, who had been first and second after the cross-country, dropped to third on Prince Willoughby after incurring five faults. Todd's other horse, Conde

D'Serafin - who had been in the lead - failed the final home inspection, much to Todd's frustration. "He may have been a bit stiff but he didn't look like me - he just doesn't trot up very well," he said.

Matt Ryan, the reserve rider for Australia's 1988 Olympic team - who had been equal third after the cross-country - won second place on Julie Tew's MP after a clear round yesterday. Ryan, who has been based in Whitby for the last two years, hopes MP may be the horse to take him to the Barcelona Olympics.

Dillon's sights are set nearer home. Next week she competes at Bramham on her leading horse, Samuel Whiskers, on which she was third in 1989.

Check Out is being aimed at Blenheim in September.

Earlier, William Fox-Pitt, a London University student, who has just emerged from the young-rider category, gained his first three-day event win when he clinched the national section on Lesley Wallace's seven-year-old Thomsen. Rachel Hunt, the former European team medal winner, finished runner-up on Local York.

RESULT: Windsor International three-day event (international section) (qualifying round for European Cup) 1. Check Out (Dillon) 44.0; 2. M. Ryan (Australia) 44.0; 3. B. Ryan (Australia) 44.0; 4. J. Tew (New Zealand) 45.0; 5. M. Ryan (Australia) 45.0; 6. J. Tew (New Zealand) 45.0; 7. J. Tew (New Zealand) 45.0; 8. J. Tew (New Zealand) 45.0; 9. J. Tew (New Zealand) 45.0; 10. J. Tew (New Zealand) 45.0.

FOOTBALL

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A role Taylor-made for Barnes

*Source: Sports Marketing Surveys Ltd.

هكذا عين الأرملة

Peter Davies may yet join Derby hopefuls

By GEORGE RAE

PETER DAVIES, one of many former Derby favourites but demoted to the ranks after a disappointing defeat in the Dante Stakes at York, may yet take his place in the Epsom line-up.

The Henry Cecil-trained colt, ridden by Tony Cruz, worked over nine furlongs on the Limericks on Saturday with stable companion Perpendicular, third to Environment Friend in the Dante.

"His blood count at York was all wrong," Charles St. George, Peter Davies' owner, said yesterday. St. George remains keen to let the colt take his chance and, considering the owner's long-time links with Lester Piggott, the debate over Piggott's Derby ride may have plenty of life in it yet.

Perpendicular, owned by Lord Howard de Walden, is, however, unlikely to run.

Peking Opera, another to have fallen from grace, is likely to be given the opportunity to try to recover his form. He worked well on Saturday and Michael Stoute, his trainer, feels he was unsuited by the soft ground at Chester when comfortably beaten by Toulon.

With Sheikh Mohammed loan on realistic challenges, Peking Opera looks as probable a mount as any for Steve Caughan.

Stoute is also considering running Mujahid, the winner of last season's Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot but well beaten in the 2,000 Guineas. "He hurt his back coming out of the stalls," Stoute said yesterday. "We know he's sound again and the plan is to gallop him on Wednesday. That will tell us if he's on schedule for Epsom."

Guy Harwood confirmed Cruchman a runner but a decision has still to be made. He has been a contender for the Predominant Stakes at Goodwood on Tuesday.

Suomi's defeat by Jolie De Solr and Sarcus in the Crawley Warren Heron Stakes at Kempton on Saturday ensured that the former "talking horse" will miss the Derby. "He won't run but there are still good races in him," Cusumani said.

Apprentice Darryll Holland



Cecil Limekilns gallop for Peter Davies

ended a fine week with a double on Darakah and Cantoret, his second in three days. Darakah, trained by John Hill, was backed from 33-1 to 11-1 for the Underwriting Handicap and justified the confidence with a head win over Divine Pet.

Excellent pupil though Holland, it was the master, Pat Eddery, who had the day's last word. He completed a four-timer at Doncaster on Magnified, Regent Lad, Roofing and Super Staff to take the lead in the jockeys' championship.

He will not relinquish it lightly. Excellent pupil though Holland, it was the master, Pat Eddery, who had the day's last word. He completed a four-timer at Doncaster on Magnified, Regent Lad, Roofing and Super Staff to take the lead in the jockeys' championship.

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MANDARIN
2.00 Plain Fact. 2.30 Cumbrian Cavalier. 3.00 Melliotte. 3.30 Emallen. 4.00 Alkazo. 4.30 Denben.

THUNDERER
2.00 Plain Fact. 2.30 World of Tomorrow. 3.00 No Submission. 3.30 Glow of Summer. 4.00 Melarinos. 4.30 Kiveton Komet.

GOING: FIRM (WATERED)
DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.00 SANDHILLS CLAIMING STAKES
(£2,380; 5f) (5 runners)
1-003 LADY'S MANTLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 7-95 K. Fallon 4
2-002 PLAIN FACT 28 (D.F.S.) M. Prescott 8-40 D. Duffell 6
3-004 NUCLEAR EXPLOSION 38 (D.F.S.) D. Chapman 4-25
4-004 ROCK BREAKER 12 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 3-11 J. Lowe 2
5-021 FIVESEVENFIVE 27 (D.F.S.) J. Barry 3-83 J. Carroll 1

2.30 SPRING BANK HOLIDAY MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES
(£2,477; 5f) (8 runners)
1-003 LADY'S MANTLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 7-95 K. Fallon 4
2-002 PLAIN FACT 28 (D.F.S.) M. Prescott 8-40 D. Duffell 6
3-004 NUCLEAR EXPLOSION 38 (D.F.S.) D. Chapman 4-25
4-004 ROCK BREAKER 12 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 3-11 J. Lowe 2
5-021 FIVESEVENFIVE 27 (D.F.S.) J. Barry 3-83 J. Carroll 1

3.00 ZETLAND GOLD CUP
(£20,760; 1m 20) (5 runners)
1-003 LADY'S MANTLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 7-95 K. Fallon 4
2-002 PLAIN FACT 28 (D.F.S.) M. Prescott 8-40 D. Duffell 6
3-004 NUCLEAR EXPLOSION 38 (D.F.S.) D. Chapman 4-25
4-004 ROCK BREAKER 12 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 3-11 J. Lowe 2
5-021 FIVESEVENFIVE 27 (D.F.S.) J. Barry 3-83 J. Carroll 1

3.30 GLAISDALE HANDICAP
(£3-Y-O; £2,960; 1m 8f) (7 runners)
1-003 LADY'S MANTLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 7-95 K. Fallon 4
2-002 PLAIN FACT 28 (D.F.S.) M. Prescott 8-40 D. Duffell 6
3-004 NUCLEAR EXPLOSION 38 (D.F.S.) D. Chapman 4-25
4-004 ROCK BREAKER 12 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 3-11 J. Lowe 2
5-021 FIVESEVENFIVE 27 (D.F.S.) J. Barry 3-83 J. Carroll 1

4.00 BILLINGHAM MAIDEN STAKES
(£3-Y-O; £2,521; 1m 10f) (4 runners)
1-003 LADY'S MANTLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 7-95 K. Fallon 4
2-002 PLAIN FACT 28 (D.F.S.) M. Prescott 8-40 D. Duffell 6
3-004 NUCLEAR EXPLOSION 38 (D.F.S.) D. Chapman 4-25
4-004 ROCK BREAKER 12 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 3-11 J. Lowe 2

4.30 DUNDAS HANDICAP
(£2,794; 8f) (7 runners)
1-003 LADY'S MANTLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 7-95 K. Fallon 4
2-002 PLAIN FACT 28 (D.F.S.) M. Prescott 8-40 D. Duffell 6
3-004 NUCLEAR EXPLOSION 38 (D.F.S.) D. Chapman 4-25
4-004 ROCK BREAKER 12 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 3-11 J. Lowe 2

3.30 CHANTONOVIC NOVICES CHASE
(£2,095; 3m 2f 10y) (5 runners)
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3.00 ZETLAND GOLD CUP
(£20,760; 1m 20) (5 runners)
1-003 LADY'S MANTLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 7-95 K. Fallon 4
2-002 PLAIN FACT 28 (D.F.S.) M. Prescott 8-40 D. Duffell 6
3-004 NUCLEAR EXPLOSION 38 (D.F.S.) D. Chapman 4-25
4-004 ROCK BREAKER 12 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 3-11 J. Lowe 2
5-021 FIVESEVENFIVE 27 (D.F.S.) J. Barry 3-83 J. Carroll 1

3.30 GLAISDALE HANDICAP
(£3-Y-O; £2,960; 1m 8f) (7 runners)
1-003 LADY'S MANTLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 7-95 K. Fallon 4
2-002 PLAIN FACT 28 (D.F.S.) M. Prescott 8-40 D. Duffell 6
3-004 NUCLEAR EXPLOSION 38 (D.F.S.) D. Chapman 4-25
4-004 ROCK BREAKER 12 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 3-11 J. Lowe 2
5-021 FIVESEVENFIVE 27 (D.F.S.) J. Barry 3-83 J. Carroll 1

4.00 BILLINGHAM MAIDEN STAKES
(£3-Y-O; £2,521; 1m 10f) (4 runners)
1-003 LADY'S MANTLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 7-95 K. Fallon 4
2-002 PLAIN FACT 28 (D.F.S.) M. Prescott 8-40 D. Duffell 6
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4-004 ROCK BREAKER 12 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 3-11 J. Lowe 2

4.30 DUNDAS HANDICAP
(£2,794; 8f) (7 runners)
1-003 LADY'S MANTLE 14 (D.F.S.) R. Beaman 7-95 K. Fallon 4
2-002 PLAIN FACT 28 (D.F.S.) M. Prescott 8-40 D. Duffell 6
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3-00

John O'Leary looks at the prime minister's plans for improving Britain's education system and Eric Anderson calls for a new incentive

Can Major get his sums right?

Doubts are being raised over whether the government will provide enough money to fulfil its higher education dreams and find enough students to take up the challenge

Academics and politicians have been disagreeing for more than a decade about the likely demand for higher education over the final years of the century and beyond. Natural conservatism and the urge to save money have generally encouraged a pessimistic official view, which has then regularly had to be revised.

Last week's white paper should have changed all that. Even the most bullish of academic planners cannot ask for more than a policy that foresees participation rising from the present one in five school leavers to one in three in only eight years.

Suddenly the doubts are about whether the pendulum has swung too far. Will the students be there in sufficient numbers, and will the money be available to provide them all with places in a system that maintains existing standards?

It was only three years ago that the proportion of 18 and 19-year-olds going into higher education reached 15 per cent. The target set by the prime minister is more than double that rate, and 10 per cent more than the government was forecasting a year ago. Even in February, the education department was expecting one in four to opt for higher education, rather than Mr Major's one in three.

Expansion on such a scale will require another 300,000 students, as many as there were in the whole system 25 years ago. Most are expected to take full-time or sandwich courses, rather than the more cheaply provided part-time programmes.

Since every projection of student demand in recent years has turned out to be too low, ministers are confident that the universities, both old and new, will rise to the challenge. Alan Howarth, the higher education minister, says: "We realise that it is an ambitious target, but it is based on present

trends. The improvements we are making in the schools should make it easier to achieve."

With nine out of ten holders of A-levels already going on to higher education, the government's drive to give vocational courses new status and attraction as well as increasing the number of pupils taking the traditional academic route becomes more important.

The universities and polytechnics need to attract students from sections of the population where traditionally young people do not take courses.

To make matters worse, the number of 18-year-olds will continue to fall until 1996, and not reach current levels again before the end of the century. More mature students will be needed to make up the numbers.

The leaders of the academic community are split on whether such a dramatic increase can be achieved in time. David Harrison, the vice-chancellor of Exeter university, who chairs the Universities Central Council on Admissions, believes that it can, but only at the cost of changes in character. Mr Harrison says: "We have a very powerful motor for expansion in the children of the first generation graduates of the late Sixties, but the radical changes that will be needed to accommodate them all make me wonder what the educational experience will be like in the next decade."

Martin Harris, the vice-chancellor of Essex university, says: "You have to distinguish between a policy objective and the timescale over which it is likely to be achievable."

"I would applaud the idea of 33 per cent coming into an even more diverse higher education system, but that is not to say I think it will be possible by the end of the century. They may have gone from being over-optimistic a few years ago to the other extreme."

The Institute of Manpower



Numbers game: John Major and Kenneth Clarke introduce the government's training scheme

Studies, which argued, in a report on the requirements for graduates in the next century, that changes were needed to maintain the size of the student population, agrees.

Geoff Pike, one of the authors of the report, says: "We are constantly surprised by increases in the participation rate."

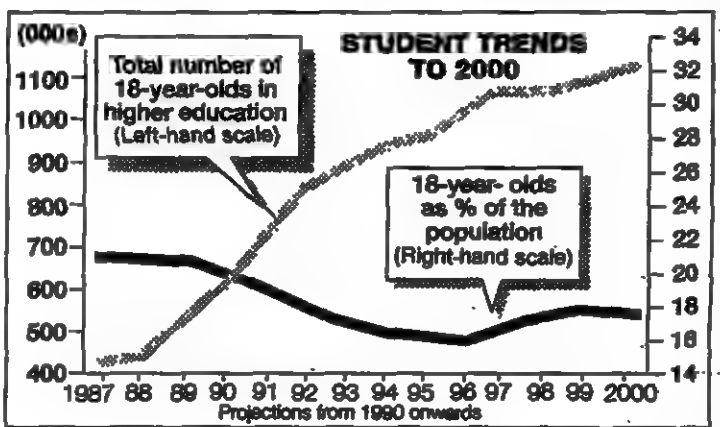
"So far, it has been largely a matter of mature students pursuing

non-vocational courses, which is not what the white paper appears to be after." Christopher Price, the director of Leeds polytechnic, has no doubt that there will be sufficient demand to fill the places but, like both vice-chancellors, he sees no sign that the government is prepared to commit the necessary funding. "A very substantial switch will have to take

place in the government's spending plans if we are going to see the resources to do the job properly."

The vice-chancellors and polytechnic directors, who were already in the throes of merger discussions before the white paper was published, will be pressing for substantial capital projects and big increases in their budgets. They fear that increased capital allocations will be swallowed up paying the costs of deferred maintenance, while other spending continues to be squeezed.

Although the white paper forecasts that national wealth will increase in line with the expansion in student numbers, there are no guarantees. "The government's commitment to awarding higher education a fair share of public expenditure is clear, but the general need to contain public spending, the pattern of relative costs in higher education and the demands for capital investment, all mean that a continuing drive for greater efficiency will need to be secured," the paper says.



Double numbers of students with a dual-purpose exam

TO THE relief of most teachers, the white paper on the education of pupils aged 16 to 19 burst on the world this week with all the éclat of a damp squib.

Headteachers agree there is a problem with education between 16 and 19: not enough young people remain in it. Kenneth Clarke's solution is to offer them new national vocational qualifications as an alternative to A-level. The temptation to water down A-levels until twice as many could pass them and pretend that educational standards have risen, has been resisted. Two cheers, therefore, for Mr Clarke.

However, young people do not divide into two categories as neatly as the white paper suggests. Alongside the academically inclined, for whom A-level is to remain the goal, and the vocationally inclined, who will aim at the new national vocational qualification, there is a third category. This is for the near-miss A-level candidates, many of whom at this moment labouring towards E grades or outright failure, and the shadowy band of those who have dropped out already because they found A-level just too difficult.

These are the very people about whom we should be concerned if we are to achieve the aim of doubling numbers in higher education. A-level is a difficult examination, passed every year by only 17 per cent of the age group. It is not an appropriate target for people in the near-miss category. The national vocational qualifications are not ideal, either. What many of the next 15 per cent need is an intermediate-level examination, at a standard halfway between GCSE and A-level, in all the main school subjects.

Such an examination would confer three major benefits: it would provide a sensible target for a large number of young people for whom A-level is just too difficult but who do not want to abandon academic courses; it would tempt thousands more boys and girls to remain in education after 16; because it would offer an attainable qualification. They would not be committed to a two-year course leading to an A-level examination which a quarter of candidates fail. Many would undoubtedly continue to A-level if that first year was a success.

It would provide a way of broadening sixth-form education in England at long last. Many A-level candidates would probably prefer to mix some intermediates with their A-levels, so that they could keep up mathematics alongside their history and languages A-levels, or a foreign language alongside their science A-levels. Intermediates would offer release from a very specialised A-level course to those who wanted it.

There is a strong whiff of academic sheep and vocational goats about the white paper, of education for some and training for others. It is good that serious vocational courses are to be offered in England as they have long been in Germany. If, however, we remain any belief in education as more than the acquisition of skills, we ought not to deny vocational pupils all chance to study literature, languages, mathematics or science. Intermediate-levels in one or more of these academic subjects would provide the possibility of breadth for vocational candidates, as well as for A-level candidates.

"We want more choice," Mr Major says in his foreword to the white paper. I agree, but the choice of A-level or NVQ or nothing is rather stingy. By contrast, intermediate-levels would open whole combinations of choice. They would not be difficult to provide.

The limping AS-level examination could be put properly on its feet and resumed. At present it is designed to be of full A-level standard but covering half the ground and taking half the time. By that definition it is accessible only to those capable of tackling A-levels; it does nothing for anyone else.

All Mr Clarke needs to do is tell the exam boards to convert it to a genuine, one-year course. That would earn the third cheer from the next generation of sixth-formers.

Dr Anderson is headmaster of Eton College



Eric Anderson

Queen's Bench Division

Law Report May 27 1991

Court of Appeal

Foreign order cannot be registered

EMI Records Ltd v Modern Music Karl-Ulrich Walterbach GmbH

Before Mr Justice Hobhouse [Judgment April 19]

An order of a foreign court, made without the opportunity for the defendant to defend himself before the order was made and without the service of any process on the defendant was not capable of registration in England under the Convention on Jurisdiction and the Enforcement of Judgments in Civil and Commercial Matters signed at Brussels in 1968.

Mr Justice Hobhouse held in the Queen's Bench Division giving judgment for the appellant, EMI Records Ltd, on appeal against the registration by Master Crighton on February 26 of an order made by the Land Court of Berlin on February 26, restraining the appellant from various dealings with new musical presentations of a certain pop group.

Article 27 of the Convention provides: "A judgment shall not be recognised... (2) where it is given in default of appearance, if the defendant was not duly served with the document which instituted the proceedings or with an equivalent document in sufficient time to enable him to arrange for his defence."

Article 46 provides: "A party seeking recognition or applying for enforcement of a judgment shall also produce: (1) a copy of the judgment which satisfies the conditions necessary to establish its authenticity; (2) in the case of a judgment given in default, the original or a certified true copy of the document which established the party in default was served with the document instituting the proceedings or with an equivalent document."

Mr Nicholas Elliott for the appellant, Mr Nigel Tox for the respondent.

MR JUSTICE HOBHOUSE said that the issue was whether the master had properly allowed the registration.

The German court order was described in an informal translation as "an injunction granted without oral proceedings due to the urgency of the matter" under certain provisions of German law and procedure. It prohibited EMI Records on pain of a fine or imprisonment of their legal representatives from passing on to third parties, reproducing, distributing, broadcasting or advertising new musical presentations by a certain pop group.

The order was unqualified in its effect. It did not state what its territorial extent was. Nor did it contain any suspensive provision or any provision requiring that it be served.

It had been made solely on the written application of Modern Music, without any prior notice or the service of any document or proceedings on EMI Records

in any jurisdiction. It was in every sense an *ex parte* application and order.

Enforcement by way of registration had been sought under section 4 of the Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Act 1982, which incorporated by Schedule 1 the Brussels Convention and provided an *ex parte* and simplified procedure for registering Convention judgments in England.

The question was whether an *ex parte* order of that type was capable of being registered under section 4. The Court of Justice of the European Communities had considered the issue in Case No 125/79 *Denilvaer v Couchet Freres* (1980) ECR 1553.

In that case, the European Court had determined that judicial decisions authorising provisional or protective measures, which were delivered without the defendant having been summoned to appear and which were intended to be enforced without prior service did not come within the system of recognition and enforcement provided by the Convention.

Counsel in the present case had submitted that the European Court judgment applied only where the *ex parte* order was "intended to be enforced without service".

His Lordship said the second paragraph of article 20 of the Convention required that the proceedings of the court making the original order be stayed so long as it was not shown that the defendant had been able to receive the document instituting the proceedings or an equivalent document in sufficient time for him to arrange his defence.

The proceedings before the German court had not met that requirement. The German order had been given in proceedings at which the defendant did not appear and did not have an opportunity of appearing. Article 46(2) could not have been complied with.

Counsel for Modern Music had cited a passage in *O'Malley & Layton, European Civil Practice* (1st edition (1989) p102) in support of the proposition that even though the order was not

made in proceedings which satisfied the requirements of the Convention and was made in the absence of the other party, it was sufficient if at some later date prior to the actual registration there was a reasonable opportunity for the defendant to apply in the foreign court for the judgment to be set aside.

That was a somewhat extravagant proposition and found no support in the language or scheme of the Convention. A passage in the European Court judgment in *Denilvaer v Couchet Freres* indicated (at p1568) that *ex parte* proceedings did not meet the criteria in articles 27 and 46.

"These provisions were clearly not designed in order to be applied to judgments which, under the national law of the contracting state, are intended to be delivered in the absence of the party against whom they are directed and to be enforced without prior service on him."

"It is apparent from a comparison of the different language versions of the words in question and in particular from the terms used to describe the party who does not appear that these provisions are intended to apply to proceedings in which in principle both parties participate but in which the court is nevertheless empowered to give judgment if a defendant, although duly summoned, does not appear."

The European Court was there recognising the principle of an opportunity to defend the proceedings after having been summoned and indicating that the safeguard was apt for default proceedings but not other proceedings.

In his Lordship's judgment that was the context in which the words "and to be enforced without prior service on him" should be read.

The words referred to proceedings involving orders which were to take effect only after the defendant had been served with the order and had been given an opportunity to appear before the court and dispute the making of the order.

The European Court had also pointed out that the Convention's provisions were intended to ensure, within the scope of its objectives, that proceedings leading to the delivery of judicial decisions took place in such a way that the rights of the defence were observed.

The European Court had observed in *Denilvaer v Couchet Freres* (at p1569): "... it is clear that the Convention is fundamentally concerned with judicial decisions which, before the recognition and enforcement of them are sought in a state other than the state of origin, have been, or have been capable of being, the subject of a dispute and under various procedures of an enquiry in adversary proceedings."

It was apparent that what the plaintiffs were seeking to achieve by registration in England was something of a completely different character. They were seeking to register a permanent injunction, establishing substantive, permanent and final rights, not provisional interim relief.

They sought to establish that position without having served any process on the defendants and without having given the defendants any opportunity to be heard before the relevant order was made.

The German court order did not come within the Convention at all. It was not an order of the relevant character; it was inconsistent with the scheme of the Convention read as a whole and with the essence of what was decided by the European Court of Justice.

The order was of a type which was simply not capable of being registered in England under the Brussels Convention.

The plaintiff could, subject to jurisdiction, commence proceedings in Germany of a character which would enable the resulting order to be registered. Or it could commence proceedings in England where the defendant was domiciled.

But the present order was not amenable to registration. Registration must be set aside and the appeal allowed.

Solicitors: Harbottle & Lewis; The Simkins Partnership.

Woolwich Equitable Building Society v Inland Revenue Commissioners

Before Lord Justice Glidewell, Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Bingham

[Judgment May 22] Payments voluntarily made by the Woolwich Equitable Building Society to meet unauthorised tax demands were to be repaid by the Revenue with interest thereon from the dates on which the payments had been made.

The Court of Appeal so held by a majority. Lord Justice Ralph Gibson dissenting, in allowing an appeal by Woolwich from the decision of Mr Justice Nolan (July 26, 1988; [1989] 1 WLR 137) where by he had dismissed its claim that it was entitled to repayment of money had and received by the Revenue with interest from the dates of the payments. The Crown was granted leave to appeal to the House of Lords.

Woolwich, disputing the validity of parts of the Income Tax (Building Society) Regulations (SI 1986 No 482) under which it had to pay to the Revenue on specified quarterly dates the tax in respect of dividends and interest it had paid to its members, challenged them in judicial review proceedings.

The society, however, to avoid adverse publicity and the risk of incurring penalties, made without prejudice payments of three quarterly instalments of the tax demanded totalling some £57 million. On July 26, 1987 Mr Justice Nolan ([1988] 1 WLR 137) held the regulations to be ultra vires and void. The Revenue repaid the society the moneys with interest from July 31.

The society claimed entitlement to interest under section 35A of the Supreme Court Act 1981 from the dates that it had made the three payments.

By section 35A of the Supreme Court Act 1981 in High Court proceedings for the recovery of debt "... there may be included in any sum for which judgment is given simple interest... on all or any part of the debt... in respect of which judgment is given, or payment is made before judgment, for all or any part of the period between the date when the cause of action arose and (a) in the case of any sum paid before judgment, the date of the payment."

Mr John Gardner, QC, Mr Nicholas Underhill and Mr Jonathan Peacock for Woolwich; Mr Anthony Grabner, QC and Mr Alan Moses, QC, for the Crown.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDEWELL said that for the society to succeed in its claim to interest, section 35A of the 1981 Act required it to show (i) that the Revenue was under a legal obligation to repay the capital sum and thus owed the society a

debt and (ii) that the society had a right to be repaid, so that its cause of action arose at the date on which it made the three payments.

The society's primary submission, not accepted by the Crown, was that a subject making a payment in response to an unlawful demand for tax, immediately acquired a *prima facie* right under the law of restitution to be repaid.

Mr Gardner based his argument in part on general principles, starting with the words of article 4 of the Bill of Rights 1689, and in part on previously decided cases.

As to the general principles, Lord Mansfield described the basis of the action for money had and received in *Moses v Macferlan* (1760) 2 Burr 1005. Using that phraseology the question was whether the Revenue's demand for the tax was an implied imposition, or whether the Revenue had taken an undue advantage of the society. Was it obliged by the ties of natural justice and equity to refund the money?

Woolwich argued in favour of there being a general restitutionary principle that if a government body demanded a payment that it had no legal power to require and payment was made in response to the demand, that there was a presumption of law that the payer had an immediate right to recover the payment.

In summary, it said: 1 that where there was no parliamentary authority for the imposition of a tax, the taxing authority was never entitled to any money paid on an invalid demand and thus was obliged to repay; 2 the taxing authority had powers conferred by statute to enforce its demand over the citizen's right to bring an action

at law. In addition in some situations, of which this was one, the statutory provisions might put a taxpayer at a disadvantage if he did not make a payment which in the end it proved he was obliged to make as against his position if he did make a payment which he was not obliged to make.

3 such a general restitutionary principle accorded with the general approach of the House of Lords in *R v Tower Hamlets London Borough Council, Ex parte Chetnik* (1988) AC 853, and 4 not least, the principle was based on a general standard of fairness in the relations and dealings between officers and organs of Government, who required the payment of a tax or customs duty and the taxpayer.

Those arguments were persuasive. There should be in the interests both of justice and good government such a general restitutionary principle as that for which Woolwich contended. Mr Grabner relied on authorities that he said impelled the court to the view that there was no general restitutionary principle. However, two of those cases, namely *Slater v Burnley Corporation* (1882) 59 LTNS 636 and *Whitely Ltd v The King* (1939) 101 LT 741, appeared to be wrongly decided.

Other cases showed that there were two limitations on the application of such a principle. First that the payment might not be recoverable if it was made "close the transaction" (see *Mackel v Hornier* (1915) 3 KB 106, 118) and secondly that it was made as a result of the payer being mistaken as to the proper interpretation of the relevant statute (see *National Park-Munich Association v The King* (1930) 47 TLR 110).

None of those limitations applied on the facts of the case. The society had made its payment clear from the start that it was not making payment to close the transaction. It had paid without prejudice to its arguments in the judicial review proceedings. Since it had correctly asserted the invalidity of the regulations from the start, it could not be suggested that it made any payment under a mistake of law.

The society had made the payments under the ultra vires regulation and immediately acquired a right to recover the amount of them. It followed that it was entitled also to be paid interest on those amounts from the date of payment to the date of Mr Justice Nolan's judgment in the judicial review proceedings.

LORD JUSTICE RALPH GIBSON, dissenting, said that long-accepted authority established that there was no general right of recovery of money paid voluntarily in respect of an unlawful claim.

The decisions in the *Slater* and *Whitely* cases and also in *Twyford v Manchester Corporation* (1946) 1 Ch 236 had stood unquestioned by the courts for years. Claims by taxpayers must have been settled or not pursued on the assumption that the rule applied in those cases were good law.

There were respectable reasons of public interest and in the convenience of public administration for retaining those rules. The consequences of overriding the authorities was such that it should be left to the legislature.

LORD JUSTICE BINGHAM gave a judgment concurring with Lord Justice Glidewell.

Solicitors: Clifford Chance; Solicitor of Inland Revenue.

Unlawful tax repaid with interest

No duty to re-assess special needs

Regina v Newham London Borough Council, Ex parte D

Before Mr Justice Brooke [Judgment May 20]

A local education authority was under no obligation to carry out a re-assessment of a child's special educational needs in order to update the statement made in accordance with the provisions of section 7 of the Education Act 1981 unless the child's parent had requested such a re-assessment.

Mr Justice Brooke so held in the Queen's Bench Division refusing to grant the applicant, a declaration that the London Borough of Newham had failed in its statutory duty to maintain a statement of her daughter K's special educational needs and to make provision for those needs.

MR JOHN FRIEL for the applicant, Mr David Funnell for the local education authority. MR JUSTICE BROOKE said

that a section 7 statement was made for K in 1983. Because K was already being provided with special educational treatment at the time transitional arrangements applied and the necessity for an initial assessment was waived.

The statement had been reviewed annually as required but no assessment of K's special educational needs had taken place since 1983 and a full section 7 statement had never been prepared.

In the court's view, a re-assessment following the last review, or earlier, would have been desirable. It was equally desirable that any children whose section 7 statements were still in the short transitional form used in K's case should be re-assessed immediately so that their statements would in future include a proper contemporary educational needs assessment.

However, the statutory

scheme of the 1981 Act did not provide for a mandatory re-assessment in a transitional case until the child reached the age of 13, although a parent had the right to request an assessment at any time.

Such a construction of the Act was not likely to advance the welfare of those handicapped children whose parents were not as aware of their rights as others whose more sophisticated parents had easier access to solicitors whose children's statements did not accurately represent their current needs.

But that was the scheme that Parliament had created and the court had no power to alter it or to interpret it in a way which would be creating a legal right where Parliament had created none.

Solicitors: Teacher Stern Selby; Mr Gerald M. Curran, East Ham.



On the receiving end: the tests for seven-year-olds will be a controversial topic under debate this week. "We must not get too emotional about it," the heads' leader says

Heads to take tests to task

Compulsory testing of seven-year-olds continues to haunt the government, despite changes and promises of more reform, as Tim Eggar, the education minister, will find when he speaks to headteachers this week.

The standard assessment tests (Sats) will be debated at the annual conference of the National Association of Headteachers in Scarborough. David Hart, the general secretary, wants Sats to be substantially amended and scaled down.

"They are not capable of being delivered in a normal classroom environment without disruption and unduly interrupting routine teaching," Mr Hart says.

"Many schools have gone overboard in ensuring that Sats work. But they cannot go on doing that year after year with the waste of precious resources that has been required. We do not think either that they should have to be done in the first five or six weeks of the summer term, but should be spread over a longer period."

Mr Hart complains that schools are not testing the full ability range but just the first three

This week, the education minister will be told that the new assessment exams will be impractical. David Tytler previews a conference clash

levels in mathematics, science and English. He says: "We need to debate the issue professionally and not to get too emotional about it so that we do not make the mistake of driving the government into introducing what have become known as paper-and-pencil tests, which would be even more professionally and educationally unacceptable. I am sure we can get it right. We must not give the impression that we are against assessment at seven."

When Mr Eggar addresses the conference, he will raise the question of the assessment of teachers. He thinks the main challenge for all heads will be the way they handle the introduction of compulsory teacher appraisal. "Heads will have an important task in persuading staff that appraisal is helpful and not a threat to them," he says. "There is a degree of concern among staff that somehow appraisal is a weapon

that will be used against them. Appraisal gives the staff a chance to talk honestly about their strengths and weaknesses and also about what they want for themselves. "If assessment becomes just a form-filling exercise, it loses any meaning at all. Assessment has to be credible. People have to re-

million a year for the first two years. Initial estimates suggest that to provide even the kind of system the government is proposing will cost twice that much."

Mr Eggar will no doubt go out of his way to praise the work of heads and deputies when he addresses the conference on Friday. "The pay review body and staff appraisal are about raising the status of teachers in society, in making everybody aware that they are doing a very good job," he says.

"One of the reasons some teachers feel slightly unloved is that when ministers praise them, it is not naturally headline news and gets tucked in behind almost anything else... I think they are doing a fantastic job."

The national curriculum, for example, will force heads to look carefully at the way they run their schools, Mr Eggar says. "Topic work that is not identified with the subject work is slipping a bit. I

suspect that primary schools will have to consider whether they should be going more towards subject teaching. That's likely to be one of the big changes," he says.

"Heads and teachers are all responding very well, and, largely because of that positive response, we were able to put forward the idea of a pay review body, a recognition of achievement by teachers that allowed us to persuade the rest of our government colleagues that they deserved a pay review body."

Heads and deputies welcome the praise, Mr Hart says, but he adds: "We are told year after year that without the work of heads and deputies, the Education Reform Act would not have got off the ground, but we do need the tools to do the job."

"If the reforms are not supported by adequate training and other areas of essential support, then no government should be surprised if the people responsible for implementing them become frustrated. A gap seems to exist between words of praise and deeds, which should be translated into adequate resources."

'In the classroom they will interrupt teaching'

ognise that results will flow from consistent assessment."

Headteachers are not opposed to appraisal but worry that not enough money will be available to ensure a satisfactory introduction. Mr Hart says: "The national steering group estimated that a full-blown system of appraisal would cost £40 million a year. The government is allowing only £10

Polys get Harrow vote

THE polytechnics have nothing to prove to the top independent schools, which already send them many of their brightest pupils. Few, however, have such close personal allegiance as Ian Beer, the headmaster of Harrow.

Two of his children went to Cambridge university and one to Middlesex polytechnic to read business studies. "He is now the marketing manager of a major company," Mr Beer says. "When I came here ten years ago, some parents were not pleased if their child was offered a degree course at a polytechnic. But now they are pleased because so often the polytechnic offers a course more suited to their child than one of the lesser-known universities."

"I have interviewed people from Oxford and Cambridge whom I would not employ and then seen somebody from a polytechnic who has me jumping for joy."

Mr Beer said he thought some of his own staff would have polytechnic degrees but he was not sure because Harrow did not publish where staff gained their degrees. He added, however: "I have three excellent design technology graduates on the staff who would almost certainly have come from a polytechnic. Which university would you get them from?"

Frisco flyer

THE Guild of British Travel Agents chose a suitably exotic location to introduce a new range of training qualifications last week. A three-level certificate, devised in collaboration with the City and Guilds of London Institute, was unveiled at the guild's annual conference in San Francisco.

Renaming game

THE SEARCH for new names for polytechnics once their status changes is likely to strain relations with their existing university neighbours. Birmingham polytechnic, however, has come up with an idea that might save the day.

A call in the polytechnic newsletter for suggestions produced several possibilities, including "Second City university". Market research has shown the importance of keeping the name of the town of city in the title, however.

The favoured option at present is the "New University,

Birmingham", which could solve the problem for all the existing polytechnics.

David Warner, the assistant director, says: "New" is an attractive marketing term, and it could always be dropped if there were a subsequent reorganisation of higher education. If all the polytechnics used the title, it would also maintain a distinctive label for the sector."

Talking Europe

MANY top executives are put off learning French because they struggled with the language at school.

Christine Wilding, the secretary-general of the Association for Language Learning, says many business people claim they get by in French, but often the real reason for their reluctance is a phobia developed from school. German is the favourite alternative, but Spanish and Italian courses are becoming increasingly popular.

A range of courses is now available in Britain, she says. Details of many of the courses will be exhibited at the London Language Show, which takes place at the Barbican Centre, London, from June 18 to 20.

Help note

A £500,000 appeal has been launched by King's College Choir School, Cambridge, to modernise one of its main buildings to provide additional teaching and music-practice rooms. Some choir schools are finding it difficult to recruit new



choristers, but there are no such problems for King's College school, which has 24 choristers and probationers for the choir among its 230 pupils, of whom more than a third are girls. Vivian Falk, a school governor and a member of the development appeal, says: "We are not aware of any lack of demand for full-time boarding, nor for any diminution in demand for day places."

JOHN O'LEARY

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JOHN BANHAM

The author is director general of the Confederation of British Industry



Bae signed to develop satellite phone system

By Nick Nuttall, Technology Correspondent

THE prospect of businessmen, government officials, scientists and travellers making instant calls on a pocket-sized telephone from a sled at the South Pole to a fibrecap on the Nile has moved closer.

Motorola, the American communications company, has signed British Aerospace Space Systems and the Lockheed Commercial Space Company to design and manufacture its multibillion-dollar satellite phone system, Iridium.

The system, named after the 7th element in the periodic table, plans to use 77 football-shaped craft travelling in novel orbits to solve the difficulties of truly global phone calling with low-powered handsets.

Each craft, which will be launched in clusters from 1994, will be able to handle 2,800 channels, giving the network an initial capacity of 215,600 simultaneous callers anywhere on earth.

The cost of the calls is

expected to be £1.50 a minute. Handsets, capable of fitting into a bag or a pocket, should initially cost about £1,500.

Until now the system has been a concept but the agreement, which makes the British Aerospace division the project's first international partner, is being hailed as the first important step to take Iridium to commercial reality.

The deal could be worth up to \$3 billion to British Aerospace and Lockheed, the prime contractor, by the time the system becomes operational in 1996.

John Holt, the managing director of BAE's Space Systems, said: "Iridium is an exciting concept and one with which British Aerospace, with its long tradition of technical innovation, has a great affinity. We look forward to playing a major role in solving the technological challenges and to working alongside Motorola and Lockheed."

John Stuart, also with Space Systems, said Motorola's decision to sign up the company as its first international partner was after intensive discussions over the past 12 months.

Motorola had been impressed by the company's technical expertise as well as its work on novel satellite orbits and its drive to develop low-cost manufacturing.

Unlike traditional commercial satellite manufacturing, making low-cost satellites will also require a factory-style production line to build the initial system of low-cost satellites and to replace them as they age.

This, Mr Holt said, would raise "the satellite manufacturing capabilities in Europe to unprecedented levels".

Vast satellites positioned high over the equator and each capable of receiving and beaming telephone signals to a third of the globe are already in orbit but power constraints make these unsuitable for a global pocket-phone network.

By launching the Iridium network into seven polar orbits 413 miles high, a person anywhere in the world should be able to use a handset of no more than half a watt to reach an Iridium satellite.

The craft, 11 equally spaced in each orbit, would then pass the signal to one of the following satellites which, when over the country and telephone trying to be called, would beam down the signal.

Motorola is examining the concept with a number of satellite organisations, including Inmarsat in London.

A City route to the ski slopes



Togged up: Paul McGreevy in London, trying to sell stakes in an American resort

GSTAAD, Aspen and Zermatt are names whose mere mention sets the nerves of any enthusiastic skier tingling. As yet, the name Bolton Valley does not quite have the same effect. Paul McGreevy is determined to change that.

Mr McGreevy is chief executive of Bolton Valley Corporation, a private company whose principal asset is 6,000 acres of wooded mountainsides in Vermont, the popular American skiing state. BVC is 99 per cent owned by the Deslauriers family, which has owned the company and run the ski resort for the past 25 years.

With only one member of the family taking an active interest in the company, other shareholders are being sought. Hence Mr McGreevy's fortnight in London, where he is attempting to raise \$5-6 million to finance a five-year expansion plan. Company assets are valued at \$18 million.

The real profits come from property and the master plan envisages an almost tenfold increase in residential units from the current 180. A golf course will expand the resort's summer appeal.

The money being sought roughly matches the company's debt, mainly owed to the Bank of Boston. Mr McGreevy said: "The money will give us a company with virtually no debt."

Any investor in BVC will be offered a route for realising a profit. Bolton Valley could well be sold to a large specialist corporation in five years.

Directors may face jail through their ignorance of corporate law

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

PROSECUTIONS of company directors, largely for widespread ignorance of corporate law, will rise later this year as the government enforces company law more strictly, according to a study published today.

The study suggests that thousands of company directors fail to understand the implications of company law, and could face fines or even jail sentences.

The study, carried out by Collyer-Bristow, a law firm specialising in corporate law, concludes that the number of prosecutions of directors is bound to rise later this year, when the trade and industry department tightens its enforcement procedures.

Following the simplification of filing arrangements for companies' annual tax returns, the trade and industry department will later this year release more staff to pursue late-filing offenders.

In addition, a new regime for the enforcement of late filing will be introduced, creating a civil penalty payable by the company or its directors.

Collyer-Bristow is launching a special legal advisory check-up service for directors.

The firm says in its report that nearly a third of all companies fail to file their annual returns to Companies House on time, as they are required to do under company law.

Matthew Marsh, company claims solicitor, says that these figures indicate clearly that "thousands of directors do not understand the implications of company law".

Mr Marsh said: "They may face hefty fines or imprisonment for failing to file their returns."

He noted that there had been a sharp rise in company insolvencies and an increasing number of directors disqualified and classified as unfit.

Mr Marsh said: "If a company goes into liquidation, failure to file accounts is one of the key factors in determining whether a director is unfit."

The company is forecasting that the increasing trend in insolvencies and liquidations is likely to continue.

Germany warned on aid to East

SIR Leon Brittan, the European Community competition commissioner, has urged Germany to limit subsidies to eastern Germany only to areas where they are truly needed.

Sir Leon said aid to revive the East should not disadvantage other poor regions in the EC.

"We must ensure aid is tailored to real need and that some differential is preserved in favour of areas even more disadvantaged than the former East Germany," said Sir Leon, speaking at a business conference in Dresden.

Germany is offering subsidies, tax breaks and depreciation rates worth up to 57 per cent of the costs of an investor in what was East Germany.

Sir Leon said the Commission would be particularly vigilant in ensuring certain industry sectors did not receive too much aid.

The EC has also voiced concern that foreign investors should receive equal treatment in the East, with Germany currently accounting for more than 95 per cent of investment in former state-owned companies. In the past, certain foreign businessmen have accused the Trenkhardtschke privatisation agency of a pro-German bias.

US has trouble figuring out capital inflows

From Susan Ellicott in Washington

BRITAIN is not the only country where policymakers have been fooled by unreliable statistics.

America's commerce department, which has worried the financial community and the American Treasury with the thought that foreign investors might be shunning the country, has discovered that its sums were wrong. Official estimates of the capital inflow last year were out to the tune of \$73 billion.

To the relief of many, Michael Boskin, President Bush's chief economic adviser, has requested further money from Congress to improve the standard of the government's economic statistics. The current system cannot cope with round-the-clock electronic trading that tests the working capacity of eight-hour-day federal employees.

Wall Street analysts went into a tailspin several months ago when the commerce department reported that capital flows into America fell \$5.3 billion last year, following a \$102.9 billion rise the previous year.

Financial experts took the shift to signal that the country would have trouble pulling out of a recession, while *The Wall Street Journal* quoted an economist at Salomon Brothers in New York as listing the drop as a major factor in the fall of the dollar against European currencies last year.

Now, however, the commerce department has confessed to a \$73 billion discrepancy in its statistics last year, three times the \$22.4 gap a year earlier. The department



Boskin: sought money

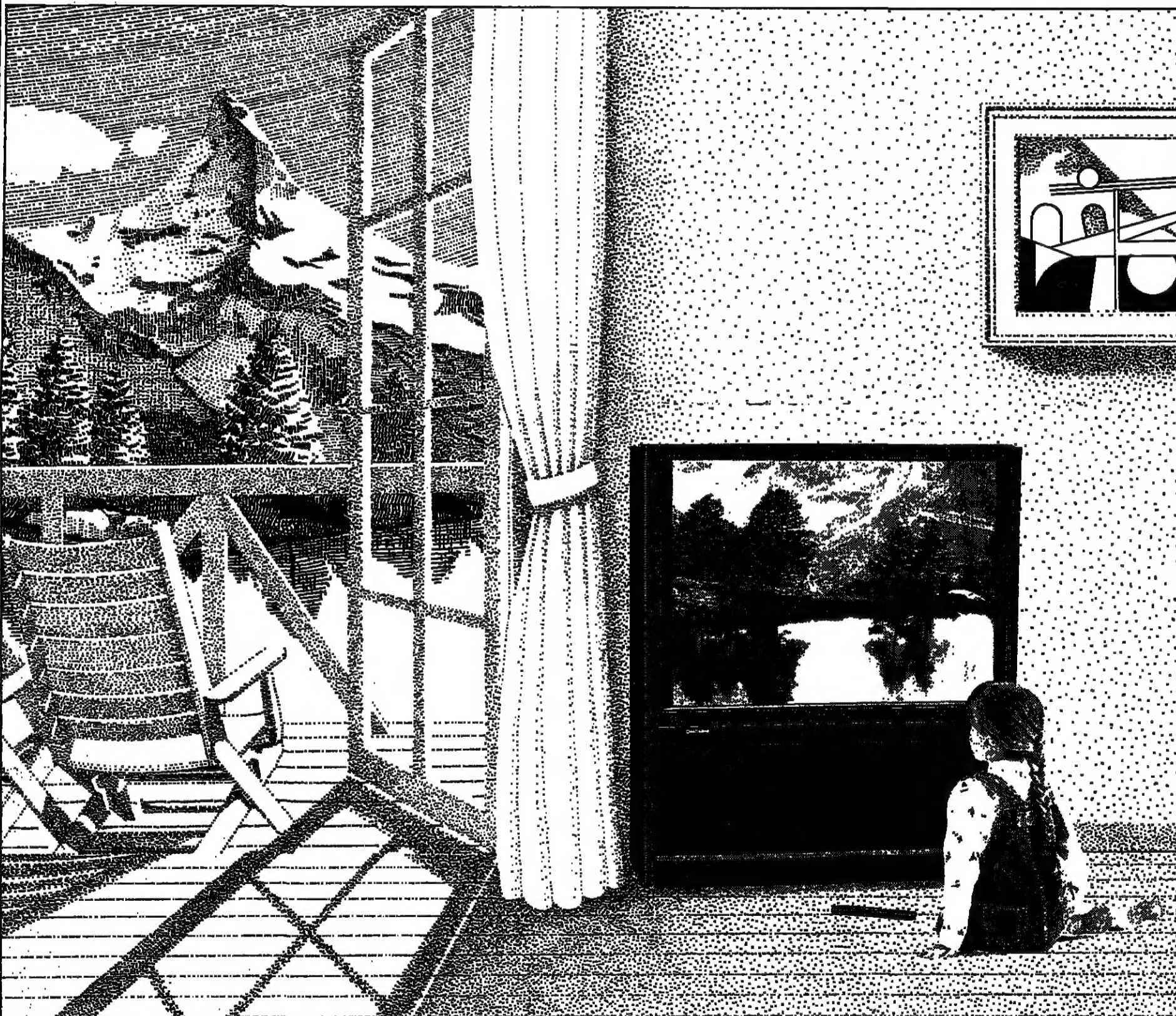
said the jump "makes it difficult to determine whether the supply of foreign capital to the US has indeed been reduced".

Over the past five years, the annual discrepancies have varied from \$15.8 billion in 1986 to \$6.8 billion in 1987 and \$8.4 billion in 1988.

While it is almost certainly true that foreign investors ploughed less money into America last year than in 1989, which was not plagued by recession and fears about the Gulf war, the worries about America's declining appeal look overblown.

The federal reserve board's division of international finance has counselled that readers view the capital flow statistics with suspicion.

The Wall Street Journal offered several reasons for the differences, ranging from possible hoarding of up to \$15 billion by people in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, inaccuracies by the customs service in tallying exports and a lack of records of all foreign money entering the nation.



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BUSINESS

Tace faces
attack on
board from
investors

By MARTIN BARROW

INSTITUTIONAL shareholders campaigning for the removal of the board of Tace, the environmental controls concern, are preparing to publish an attack on the company's trading record this week.

Norwich Union and Framlington, who together own 27 per cent of Tace and claim to represent shareholders with a further 13 per cent, are believed to be receiving advice from Hoare Govett, the securities house that resigned as Tace's financial adviser after three weeks. Hoare Govett is understood to have offered its services free of charge.

The document, expected later this week, will also outline Michael Beckett's proposals for Tace. Mr Beckett, a former director of Consolidated Gold Fields, has been asked by Norwich Union and Framlington to become non-executive chairman of Tace should they succeed in the campaign to remove David Nicolson, the chairman.

If successful, Mr Beckett will ask Ernst and Young to compile a report of the financial position at Tace and at Goring Kerr, its quoted associate. Of particular concern are Tace's American subsidiaries, where business is said to have been affected by the wrangles in Britain. Depending on the content of that report, Mr Beckett may seek City support for a financial reconstruction of Tace.

Mr Beckett was briefly a non-executive director of Tace but resigned this year, claiming that executive board members were obstructing his duties. Norwich Union and Framlington subsequently requested an extraordinary meeting to consider resolutions seeking the resignation of the entire board.

The two institutions are concerned about the appointment of Bob Morton, the financier and a 4 per cent shareholder, to the board in a non-executive capacity.

THE POUND

US dollar

1.7300 (+0.0105)

German mark

2.9566 (-0.0191)

Exchange index

91.8 (same)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share

19325 (+8.3)

FT-SE 100

2471.1 (+17.2)

New York Dow Jones

2913.91 (+27.28)

Tokyo Nikkei Ave

25529.14 (-172.80)

Banks defend charges to small firms

CBI to meet
bankers over
rates policy

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

IN AN effort to defuse a growing row between bankers and business leaders, officials from the Confederation of British Industry have called a meeting with senior bankers to discuss the high rates of interest small companies are being charged on their loans.

The confederation is concerned that while bank loans are becoming cheaper after successive cuts in base rates, the full benefits are not being passed on to its members. The Bank of England, however, has welcomed the moves by some banks to widen their commercial lending margins — the difference between borrowing costs and loan rates.

"We are not at all unhappy that the trend towards lower margins appears to have recently been reversed. It is important that banks should price their risks properly," said a spokesman for the Bank.

The Bank said it has carried out an informal survey and confirmed that banks are increasing their lending mar-

gins on loan renewals and extensions.

"It is not in industry's long-term interest for the banks to lend money at uneconomic rates," said the spokesman.

The Bank's annual review, which was published last week, confirmed the rise in lending margins.

The report showed that average domestic lending margins had fallen from 4.6 to 4.3 per cent during the year to end-February, but said there had been a marked change during 1990.

"In the latter months there were signs that lending margins were widening," it said.

The trend was confirmed by a senior director at the Bank, although average margins are still thought to be well below the 5.6 per cent level that the banks achieved in 1986.

Representatives from the confederation's council for smaller companies are due to meet the high street banks shortly to discuss the interest rates dispute.

A CBI spokesman said the organisation had been monitoring the rising costs of borrowing among smaller

companies and had received several complaints from its members. "There are problems and some companies feel they are being treated unfairly," he said.

The CBI's involvement stems from accusations that banks are charging small companies excessive interest rates of up to 7 percentage points above the base rate, or 18.5 per cent. These, claim businessmen, are helping to drive small firms into receivership.

Britain's banks have angrily denied accusations that they are damaging the prospects of small companies by an increase in their lending rates.

Barclays, Britain's largest bank, admitted that it had increased loan margins but that the increases were essential to restore profitability in its core business. "If the charge is that we are making excessive profits, it just doesn't stack up," said a spokesman.

Profits in the first half of the year at Barclays are expected to fall by 62 per cent to £230 million, mainly due to heavy provisions on loans to collapsed companies.

"The good businesses pay for the failed ones," said the spokesman. "We are in business. There is no other way of running a bank," he added.

Derek Wanless, the head of National Westminster's UK financial services division, said: "We are committed to British industry and determined to see our customers through the recession."

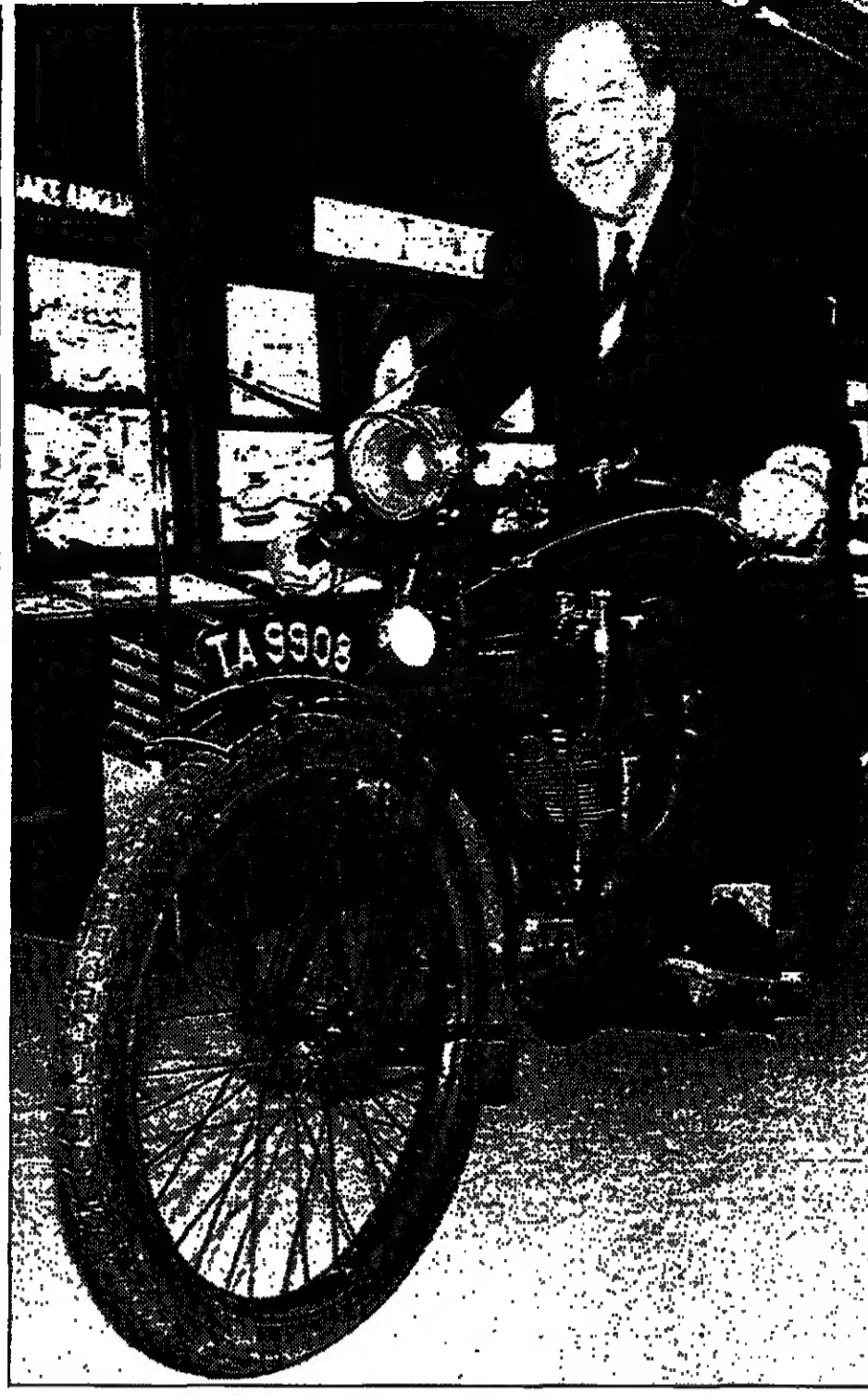
A NatWest spokesman played down the charge that the bank charged businesses up to 6.5 percentage points above the base rate on loans, and said the average sized-company paid 2.5 above base rate on its borrowings.

Nevertheless, he admitted that the bank had increased its loan margins.

"Regrettably we are in a recession," he said, "lending money is a riskier business and the rates at which we lend have to reflect that."

The British Bankers' Association, the banks' pressure group, said it was aware its members have been improving their interest margins but said banks will take every effort to accommodate their customers wherever feasible.

While the CDA concentrated mainly on encouraging worker co-operatives, the UKCC will promote the cause of co-operatives at European



Wheelpower: Alec Arlow on a 1926 293 cc Federation motorcycle made by the CWS

New grouping seeks
fair deal for co-ops

FROM DEREK HARRIS IN LLANDUDNO

A SUCCESSOR to the Co-operative Development Agency (CDA), closed down by the government last year, is being launched with the backing of a dozen key organisations promoting co-operatives, ranging from retailing and agriculture to housing and credit unions.

A government commitment to helping with start-up costs has been "fairly firmly" secured, said Keith Brading, a former chief registrar of friendly societies. He is the chairman of the new body, to be called the United Kingdom Co-operative Council (UKCC). Costs have not been fully established but most funding will come from member organisations.

While the CDA concentrated mainly on encouraging worker co-operatives, the UKCC will promote the cause of co-operatives at European

and UK levels. Co-operatives in the UK represent about £12 billion a year in turnover. Mr Brading said: "We especially want to see UK co-operatives getting their fair share of help available from Brussels and within the UK."

Peter Walker, head of business development at the Co-operative Bank, has been seconded to the UKCC, initially for a year, as its first executive director.

The UKCC will not distribute cash aid itself but will intervene to secure funding for co-operatives from wherever it is available. One development likely to get UKCC backing is the encouragement of marketing co-operatives to benefit groups of co-operatives in various sectors.

Mr Brading believes more credit unions could be en-

couraged, both for employees and on a community basis. Credit unions take in funds from members and make low-price loans, usually unsecured.

There are more than 200 credit unions but the largest co-operative sectors are retailing (about £7 billion in annual turnover) and agriculture (nearly £3 billion).

The launch of the new body came as the Co-operative Congress, annual parliament of the retail co-op movement, opened three days of sessions in Llandudno, North Wales.

More than 500 delegates went there in cautiously optimistic mood after reports from key societies of holding on to market share while at least maintaining profitability in the high streets.

The tone was reflected by the new congress president, Alec Arlow, a retired headmaster who is president of the Anglia Regional Co-op Produce Society and vice-chairman of the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS).

There had recently been a need, Mr Arlow said, for retail societies operating under the Co-op banner to improve their image and market share because of poor performance. There are more than 80 retail co-operatives.

He said: "I believe we have reached a turning point where these perceptions and images of the movement are no longer valid. They were never true of all societies."

He made a plea for more efforts to be made to create larger retail groupings. Even large, successful societies could not compete on equal terms with national supermarket chains, he argued.

NYSE's
\$3m loss
is first in
20 yearsFROM PHILIP ROBINSON
IN NEW YORK

The New York Stock Exchange lost \$3 million last year, down from a \$6.3 million profit in 1989 and its first loss in almost 20 years.

The red ink was blamed largely on the \$10.6 million one-off cost of severance payments and pension top-ups. About \$5 million was paid to those who lost their jobs last year and \$5.6 million went on enhanced retirement benefits.

Wall Street brokers were surprised in February when it was disclosed that John Phelan, the retiring exchange chairman, was reported to have received a retirement package of \$10 million when he left Wall Street's top job at the end of last year.

Exchange officials never denied the payment level, but have declined to discuss it.

The Big Board, trying to challenge London for a bigger slice of the international share dealing business, also saw gross income fall from \$349.2 million to \$348.6 million.

Like London, the NYSE earns the bulk of its income in fees from member firms and listed companies. Even though the number of quoted companies rose by 54 to 1,774, member firms dropped by 19 to 516 and recorded a combined loss of \$106 million for the first time in 18 years.

From a peak of 1,950 staff at the start of last year, this number has been reduced by 350.

Analysts say the results reflect Wall Street's recession. The NYSE saw almost a decade of growth in the Eighties, when share ownership and prices soared.

But recent share trading volume has become patchy and a number of firms — most notably Drexel Burnham Lambert, now under the protection of the bankruptcy courts — collapsed or almost failed.

The NYSE's attempt to boost business received a setback this month when the Securities and Exchange Commission, America's share dealing watchdog, refused to permit any relaxation of the listing rules, that may have allowed between 200 and 300 globally traded stocks to be quoted on the Big Board.

Dublin set to
administer
exchange

By PHILIP FANGALOS

LEGISLATION is to be drafted to put the Dublin Stock Exchange, which has been affiliated to the much larger London exchange since 1973, under Irish jurisdiction, Albert Reynolds, the finance minister, said.

Mr Reynolds said it would enable the Central Bank of Ireland to approve the rules of the Stock Exchange and licence members of the exchange, one of the oldest in Europe. Supervision and enforcement of Dublin exchange rules are carried out partly by the London exchange.

Mr Reynolds said: "It is appropriate that the regulation of the Irish stock exchange be conducted by Irish authorities."

The draft EC investment services directive will require the appointment of a national competent authority to authorise and supervise investment firms here," Mr Reynolds said.

The time it will take to implement legislation is not known. The changes will only apply to regulation and supervision.

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ICI ready to fight takeover

By OUR CITY STAFF

SIR Denis Henderson, ICI chairman, has told his managers that he is ready to fight a hostile takeover bid from Hanson, the conglomerate which has bought a 2.8 per cent share stake in ICI.

In a letter being distributed at the weekend Sir Denis said: "I and the ICI board are determined to act in the best interest of shareholders and employees and the defence plan which has been in existence for a number of years, has been rapidly updated."

Sir Denis's letter implied some urgency in preparation for possible moves by Hanson. Restructuring plans ag-

reed earlier this year and designed to refocus the group and to lessen the effects of recession, must be put into effect as soon as possible, he said.

"At this stage, Hanson's future plans are unclear and the most important thing for ICI is that business continues as usual," Sir Denis added.

Weekend press reports added to the uncertainty over Hanson's strategy. The Financial Times said that Hanson had proposed a full merger with ICI at a meeting earlier in the week. In yesterday's Observer, however, Lord White, who runs Hanson in America, flatly denied this.



Defensive: Sir Denis

Enquiries rise after attacks by pit bull terriers

Pet insurers aim to snap up new business

By COLIN CAMPBELL

OWNERS of potentially dangerous pets are gritting their teeth as the public mood turns against them, and insurance companies writing pet policies and third party liability consider their position on premium rates.

The pet protection business, insuring owners against unfriendly bites or hilarious incidents, is not as big as the British ownership of 7.4 million dogs and 6.8 million cats might suggest.

The industry believes no more than 2.5 per cent of dogs and cats are covered by insurance, although the level of enquiries in recent days has risen sharply after attacks by pit bull terriers and intended legislation to protect humans from the more vicious of man's four-legged companions. The pet insurance market, in

which Dog Breeders Insurance, of Bournemouth, Paws (a Jardine Insurance Brokers and General Accident venture, whose insurance scheme is RSPCA-approved), Pet Protect, and Pet Plan are large players, is not confined solely to the dog and cat family. Horses have long been good business lines.

Philip Woodley, of Cliverton, an insurance underwriter at Melton Constable in Norfolk, writes specialist policies for exotic animals. A typical note for a policy reads "proposals for insurance of livestock, pets, unusual animals, reptiles, invertebrates etc".

Now that the time of year has arrived when tortoisés come out of hibernation, any insured, but sick, tortoise in need of a veterinary surgeon will want to know that the health policy is paid up. Mr Woodley

said: "Falcons, which might be valued at £1,000 and do not return to base after being flown, are good business, on which the premium could be around £150."

"With rats and snakes scurrying up and down railway lines, a number of falcons fly into electrical wires — with fatal consequences," he added.

Mr Woodley will quote a premium not only for the usual run of dogs, cats and horses but also for birds, rabbits, rare spiders, or one goat and two sheep. He will even quote for a llama if necessary, subject to the usual health checks.

A python worth £300 might command a premium of £50 for death, and £15 for coverage of vet fees. Animals also have operations, you know.

"A £100 sheep? Well, the pre-

mium could be £15 for death or theft, and £15 for vet fee insurance," Mr Woodley said.

A rabbit might not be worth more than a fiver, he suggests, "but then they suffer from long toe nails, long teeth and matted hair, which might require a visit to the vet," Mr Woodley said.

Pet owners will find insurance proposal forms littered with the usual searching questions, including one that asks if the animal is kept in a field, pen, separate cage or vivarium, and one question that demands a yes/no answer to: "Are you presently licensed under the Dangerous Wild Animal Act 1976?"
